

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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In Re: ) Case No. 19-30088  
 ) Chapter 11  
PG&E CORPORATION AND PACIFIC )  
GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, ) San Francisco, California  
 ) Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
Debtors. ) 10:30 AM  
 )

SECURITIES LEAN PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION TO APPLY BANKRUPTCY  
RULE 7023 AND CERTIFY A  
LIMITED CLASS [9152]

REORGANIZED DEBTORS' MOTION  
TO APPROVE SECURITIES ADR AND  
RELATED PROCEDURES FOR  
RESOLVING SUBORDINATED  
SECURITIES CLAIMS [8964]

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DENNIS MONTALI  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

APPEARANCES (Via Zoom):

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PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
1 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020,

2 10:30 AM

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4 (Call to order of the Court.)

5 THE CLERK: Calling the matter of PG&E Corporation.  
6 One moment while I bring in Mr. Slack.

7 MR. SLACK: Good morning.

8 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Slack.

9 MR. SLACK: Give me one second.

10 THE COURT: You've still got your Ernie Banks poster  
11 up.

12 MR. SLACK: Yes. Hold on.

13 THE COURT: So Ms. Parada, is anyone else coming in at  
14 this point, Mr. Etkin or someone else coming in?

15 THE CLERK: Who would you like me to bring me in now,  
16 Your Honor?

17 THE COURT: Oh, no. We don't have to bring anyone in  
18 but Mr. Etkin, or someone from the --

19 THE CLERK: I'm bringing in Mr. Karotkin, and Your  
20 Honor you seem to be frozen.

21 THE COURT: (Audio interference).

22 THE CLERK: Your Honor, you're -- one moment, counsel.  
23 It appears we've lost Judge Montali's connection.

24 THE COURT: Ms. Parada?

25 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Mr. Slack? Yeah, I don't know. I had a  
2 perfect signal at the start of the hearing. All right.

3 Ms. Parada, why don't you call the case?

4 THE CLERK: Calling the matter of PG&E Corporation.  
5 One moment, Your Honor, while I bring in Mr. Nolan and Mr.  
6 Etkin.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Etkin, good morning.

8 MR. ETKIN: Good morning, Your Honor. I believe Mr.  
9 Dubbs is going to be handling the argument, Your Honor, and I  
10 assume that he's on, but --

11 THE COURT: Well, we'll bring him.

12 MR. ETKIN: -- I don't know whether it's in order.

13 THE COURT: We're going to start with Mr. Slack. So  
14 we'll bring in him.

15 Ms. Parada, bring Mr. Dubbs in. For everyone on the  
16 call, I want to say that I don't know why I had trouble this  
17 morning, but yesterday in the neighborhood, or in the area, the  
18 East Bay, somebody ran into a pole, and a pole caught on fire,  
19 and 5,000 Comcast customers had their fiber optic cable  
20 connections connected cut. So it wasn't my operator technique,  
21 and I apologize, but I didn't cause it.

22 So Mr. Slack and Mr. Etkin, I presume you got the  
23 order about the timing. Are you ready to go and reserve your  
24 time for response, Mr. Slack?

25 MR. SLACK: Yes, so I would like to reserve eight

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1 minutes for a response.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And Mr. Karotkin, are you going to  
3 just monitor or are you going to participate?

4 MR. KAROTKIN: Maybe both.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Slack, again, I'll repeat for  
6 all of your sake and everyone listening, I have been through  
7 volumes and volumes of papers and, of course, I have the  
8 history, and so I really mean it when I say I want you to help  
9 me figure out from a practical point of view what to do.

10 So with that, Mr. Slack, we'll start you, and you've  
11 got thirty minutes, of which you're going to reserve eight.

12 MR. SLACK: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you. So good  
13 afternoon, at least from New York, Your Honor. Richard Slack,  
14 Weil, Gotshal & Manges for the reorganized debtors.

15 And I'd like to start by answering one of your  
16 questions, which is the likely timetable for settlement under  
17 the reorganized debtors' proposed procedures. And although the  
18 objectors try to paint the procedures as complicated, they're  
19 actually very simple, and these are similar to the procedures  
20 Your Honor has already approved for other proofs of claim in  
21 the case, and in numerous other cases that we've cited.

22 Your Honor, with your permission, I'd like to ask my  
23 colleague, Mr. Nolan, to put up our sort of timing chart for  
24 you.

25 THE COURT: This is part of the demonstrative that he

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1 filed yesterday, right?

2 MR. SLACK: It is. Your Honor, it's our demonstrative  
3 number 2, and the first page of that.

4 THE COURT: Yeah, I have the -- oh, wait a minute,  
5 demonstrative number 2. I've got a demonstrative number -- oh,  
6 okay. All right. I'm on there with you.

7 MR. SLACK: Yeah.

8 THE COURT: I've got a hard copy also.

9 MR. SLACK: Great. So Your Honor -- if you could go  
10 to the next page, Jack -- the first step in our procedure is  
11 getting the trading information to know who knows -- who owns  
12 what, and to be able to size up the amount of the claims. And  
13 as PERA recognizes, this fundamental, easily furnished  
14 information is going to have to be provided under any  
15 circumstances. It's just a question of when it gets provided,  
16 and what we would say, Your Honor, is that it's absolutely  
17 critical to know what the size of the claims are before you go  
18 in and mediate. So from our perspective, this is an easy part  
19 of this. We're prepared to send out the information request  
20 promptly after approval, and we should be able to have that  
21 information within forty-five to sixty days, and that's the  
22 first step.

23 And shortly thereafter, Your Honor, we'd be able to  
24 send out settlement letters, again explaining in simple terms  
25 of procedures to most claimants with an offer, and those offers

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1 can go out before any party expends any money on expensive  
2 litigation, or discovery on the merits.

3 So within literally a couple of months, the debtors  
4 can have settlement offers out to most claimants. And at the  
5 same time, Your Honor, we would bring omnibus objections on  
6 purely procedural or facial issues, such as duplicative claims,  
7 untimely claims, shares sold before corrective disclosures, to  
8 clean up the claims docket as occurs in every case. These  
9 aren't substantive merits objections as PERA asserts.

10 THE COURT: Well, there may be --

11 MR. SLACK: That means --

12 THE COURT: -- they're essentially what we've been  
13 doing in the main case, right?

14 MR. SLACK: They are, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: You've got twenty-four sets of omnibus  
16 objections.

17 MR. SLACK: That's exactly right, Your Honor. So it's  
18 cleanup. And if Your Honor then decides that some of these  
19 claims are valid, then we'd send out additional offers at that  
20 time, and we would expect that mediation is only going to be  
21 necessary for a small number of claims. We expect that most  
22 claims can be resolved without mediation, as is our experience  
23 with other cases in similar situations. So again, just with --

24 THE COURT: But Mr. Slack, I pointed out that from  
25 your own papers, thirty percent of the claimants put enough

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1 information. Why can't you already, as soon as we start, if we  
2 go this way, go with at least the procedural objections right  
3 out of the box? And why did the -- by my calculation, if  
4 there's thirty percent of 7,000, that's over 2,000 claims that  
5 have gotten enough information already. So why do you have to  
6 go back again with that 2,000 claims?

7 MR. SLACK: So Your Honor, both good questions. So we  
8 completely agree that the omnibus objections can be going on  
9 contemporaneous with getting more information. So the omnibus  
10 objections don't have to wait, at least starting that process.  
11 So we completely agree with you.

12 And as for the thirty percent, and just to be clear  
13 about it, Mr. Keeble (phonetic) in his declaration was talking  
14 about one particular type of information that we need. So it  
15 certainly is possible that out of that thirty percent, there  
16 are other -- you know, part of that thirty percent didn't, for  
17 example, provide all information on let's say whether it's a  
18 trade, or whether it's a sale -- or a purchase or a sale.

19 But what we would tell Your Honor, because we're  
20 sensitive to your question, is that we would be prepared to go  
21 through the proofs of claim, and make sure that we're not  
22 asking somebody who has provided complete information, in all  
23 those respects, to provide the information again.

24 So we would undertake that, and we would only ask the  
25 people who haven't provided complete information to provide



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1 information in a sense, under these procedures, and we would,  
2 because it's going to be important to put this in a database,  
3 and because -- and as Your Honor can see, we've set up a  
4 database, is we would then input that information, the people  
5 who provided complete information, into the database.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MR. SLACK: And so Your Honor, literally within a  
8 couple of months, we expect the settlement process to begin,  
9 and to be fruitful. And while that settlement process is going  
10 on, it allows certain merits issues, certainly, to be addressed  
11 by the district court, without the risk of any inconsistent  
12 rulings between this court, and the district court, because  
13 under our proposal, all of the merits issues, so that there's  
14 no discovery, there's no expense, all the merits issues are put  
15 off until we can see whether we can make real progress, which  
16 we expect to do under the settlement procedures.

17 THE COURT: Well, one of the things that I can't  
18 figure out, and I have no control over the district court, but  
19 by my calculation, the motion to dismiss has been under  
20 submission for nine months, and so what -- I mean, where does  
21 our process conflict with the district court?

22 MR. SLACK: It would --

23 THE COURT: In other words, if a settlement -- let's  
24 say a claimant provides the information, you send him an offer,  
25 and the offer is accepted, doesn't the person get a check, or

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1 if it's a shareholder, get essentially stock, and we're done,  
2 or does the whole thing depend upon the district court getting  
3 resolved?

4 MR. SLACK: No, Your Honor, you hit it on the nose.  
5 If we send out settlement offers, and they're accepted, those  
6 can be instituted, people can get money immediately, and you  
7 don't have to wait for the district court to make any kinds of  
8 merits decisions.

9 So the point of the conflict, Your Honor, is it's our  
10 view that under PERA's procedures, PERA is asking that this  
11 court make merits determinations earlier than we would. And in  
12 that circumstance, it's possible that Your Honor would be  
13 making merits decisions that are potentially in conflict with  
14 the district court. And we think one of the advantages to our  
15 procedures is that it's purely procedural settlement issues up  
16 front and we defer the merits issues until after the settlement  
17 process, if there are any remaining.

18 THE COURT: Yeah, but I'm still confused. Let's  
19 suppose we have a claimant who filed a claim for 100,000  
20 dollars, not a -- I'm not talking about a little tiny one --

21 MR. SLACK: Yep.

22 THE COURT: -- and the company offers that claimant  
23 60,000, 30,000, it doesn't matter, 30,000, and the claimant  
24 says okay, I'll take it, that claimant gets 30,000 dollars. I  
25 presume that claimant can still preserve its claim against

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1 third parties, officers and directors. But what is the  
2 connection between that process and the bankruptcy court, and  
3 whatever happens, whenever it happens, and the district court?

4 MR. SLACK: Under our procedures, there is none in  
5 that process. That's exactly our point. We do not --

6 THE COURT: So if the claimant --

7 MR. SLACK: -- believe there's any conflict.

8 THE COURT: Okay. So if the claimant says, no, thank  
9 you, I don't want your 30,000 dollars, then under your  
10 proposal, it goes to various levels of mediation, but still is  
11 independent of the district court, right?

12 MR. SLACK: Under our procedures, we believe that it's  
13 entirely independent of the district court. At some point,  
14 Your Honor, here's the only point I'd make, let's assume that  
15 down the road Your Honor does have to deal with one or more  
16 claims on the merits, under our procedures, we believe that  
17 we've given the district court time to issue its rulings on the  
18 merit, and that could impact Your Honor's decisions on the  
19 merits later on. But our procedures, right, as we try to  
20 settle these cases, Your Honor, is not in conflict at all with  
21 the district court, and what the district court's doing.

22 THE COURT: Okay. So if I can turn it around to you,  
23 my hypothetical claimant takes the 30,000, and he's gone, and  
24 if he has a claim that he wishes to pursue against officers and  
25 directors, that's for another day, and another court, and

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1 another judge. But if the claimant says no, thank you, and  
2 goes through one or two rounds of mediation without a  
3 resolution, then he's in the queue to be dealt with on a merits  
4 matter, and that might be relevant, depending upon whatever  
5 happens in the district court; is that correct?

6 MR. SLACK: I think that's right, Your Honor. I would  
7 say it the following way, is that at the end of our process, to  
8 the extent there's a few claims that are remaining, Your Honor  
9 may be asked to decide the merits. And what we would suggest  
10 at that time is some type of collective action, much like what  
11 Your Honor did with the post-petition interest issue where  
12 there were thousands of people who had that issue as well. We  
13 worked out a representative process to resolve that, and we  
14 would assume that we would be able to do the same thing down  
15 the road if we needed to here.

16 THE COURT: Well, I appreciate your optimism, Mr.  
17 Slack, after the procedure you said there will just be a few  
18 claims left, that's nice to know. Okay. Go ahead.

19 MR. SLACK: Your Honor, and what PERA is proposing, is  
20 a long, drawn-out process, but the most important thing about  
21 this, Your Honor, is that they want to front load more issues,  
22 more substantive issues, which is going to delay getting  
23 settlements. And if you look at the slides they put in, they  
24 admit that they're not going to be able to get settlements.  
25 It's going to take four to six months on the back end. They're

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1 not going to be able to get settlement money out for people for  
2 a year or more, and that's only if there's a settlement, which  
3 as Your Honor knows, with PERA, the parties had an opportunity  
4 to talk, and have talked, and it's not disclosing anything to  
5 say that obviously there's no settlement. So this in some ways  
6 is just a -- their proposal is a perpetuation of the  
7 unsuccessful status quo.

8 And Your Honor what I would say is the question is why  
9 is PERA making the 7023 proposal that they're making, and it's  
10 important to take a step back and consider what this is really  
11 all about. PERA is currently, as you know, the lead plaintiff  
12 in the uncertified federal class action, and that suit is now  
13 only against the officers and directors and underwriters.  
14 So -- and the underwriters are only defendants on the Section  
15 11 claim.

16 So for the former equity holders, the only defendants  
17 are the directors and officers, as the debtors are obviously no  
18 longer a part of that case. So without the company in the  
19 case, the money available to PERA, and the federal putative  
20 class is for all practical purposes, the insurance, the D&O  
21 insurance, and the plaintiff's lawyers don't make their living  
22 by going after the houses of individuals. So that's not a  
23 realistic way of recovering on these claims.

24 So the only recovery is the insurance, and there is,  
25 in fact, 400 million dollars' worth of insurance, and so that

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1 insurance is shared not only with the federal class action that  
2 there are already plaintiffs on, but the debtors in resolving  
3 any claims in the bankruptcy that we're talking about now, as  
4 well as competing claims by the fire trust on account of the  
5 derivative claim. So you have a pot of insurance.

6 And while there is a company indemnity to the officers  
7 and directors, if the district court action goes to judgment  
8 and the plaintiffs win, the law does not allow the company to  
9 indemnify the securities violations as a matter of public  
10 policy. So again, for all practical purposes, in the district  
11 court securities action, the insurance is all that's available.

12 THE COURT: Again, why is that relevant to my decision  
13 here on whether to let the company go its own way in a more  
14 traditional bankruptcy procedure, rather than the way PERA  
15 argues for it here? Because if they win here, they recover  
16 from the debtor cash, if it's equity -- I mean, if it's  
17 preferred stock, and equity if it's equity.

18 MR. SLACK: It's a question I was just about to  
19 answer, Your Honor --

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MR. SLACK: -- which is what that means is that PERA  
22 has every incentive in to preserve that insurance for the  
23 district court action, and particularly for the claimants who  
24 are part of the putative class in the district court, but did  
25 not file proofs of claim here in the Chapter 11 case. And in

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1 order to do that, PERA needs to make sure that the reorganized  
2 debtors do not settle claims in the bankruptcy which could  
3 reduce insurance, or take the plaintiffs out of the federal  
4 action putative class.

5 And so let's be clear, there's nothing wrong with PERA  
6 as the lead plaintiff in that case taking that position here in  
7 the bankruptcy. But the point still remains, Your Honor, that  
8 they're trying to act as a class representative of two  
9 different classes that have competing interests; for example,  
10 with respect to that insurance. And let's take the issue of  
11 recoveries here in the insurance.

12 THE COURT: Well, wait, I'm going to interrupt you  
13 because I --

14 MR. SLACK: Yes.

15 THE COURT: -- kept you on a short time limit --

16 MR. SLACK: Yes.

17 THE COURT: -- and what you've said is pretty much an  
18 argument to your opposition to the 723 motion. I need to know  
19 why I should grant the debtors' ADR motion, and that's what we  
20 spent some time talking about.

21 So again, I realize -- I thought about merging these  
22 two together, and I knew that the same lawyers would be  
23 probably making the main arguments, but at least conceptually,  
24 I have to think about it. Because frankly, Mr. Slack, I'm not  
25 a hundred percent convinced that I couldn't do this

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1 sequentially. I could try your procedure, and if you're right,  
2 only a few remain, that's one thing, but what if 5,000 remain,  
3 I might decide to go to plan B under the Rule 723 motion.

4 So go back to --

5 MR. SLACK: Okay.

6 THE COURT: Just tell me what else you need me to  
7 focus on for the ADR motion.

8 MR. SLACK: Okay. Let me -- and by the way, Your  
9 Honor, I think that what you hit on is something which is  
10 important, which is letting the debtor have its shot at these  
11 procedures, which again are very typical, and in their business  
12 judgment, is the most efficient way for the estates to proceed,  
13 is the way to go. You can always revisit this issue. We don't  
14 think it's the right mechanism, but you can always revisit it  
15 sequentially as Your Honor said.

16 THE COURT: Well, but my point is maybe it isn't the  
17 right mechanism, and maybe yours is an alternative but maybe  
18 yours won't work because maybe --

19 MR. SLACK: And Your Honor, I think we --

20 THE COURT: -- fifteen people accepted --

21 MR. SLACK: -- think it's going to work.

22 THE COURT: -- and 6,000 will reject it.

23 MR. SLACK: So I guess I would say this, Your Honor,  
24 is the one advantage -- and we're confident based on precedent  
25 that this is going to work, but what I would say Your Honor is



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1 is that if, in fact, we are able to go and settle, even with  
2 thousands of claimants, and we think it's going to be many more  
3 than that, each one of those claimants is going to get an  
4 immediate payment, consensually, voluntarily. It's not going  
5 to be a -- they're not going to be denied that settlement  
6 because PERA is the gatekeeper for a settlement.

7 So at the very least, Your Honor, you're going to have  
8 consensual settlements where claimants, and likely thousands  
9 and thousands of them, are going to have consensual settlements  
10 with immediate recoveries.

11 THE COURT: So if it's --

12 MR. SLACK: And we think it --

13 THE COURT: -- an equity, if it's a class 10(b)(2),  
14 whatever it is, do they get their shares of stock under the  
15 formula, as soon as they accept, or promptly after they accept?

16 MR. SLACK: Yeah, so Your Honor, we would be certainly  
17 able to both provide potential cash, and also stock offers  
18 because as Your Honor knows, the insurance money comes out  
19 first to cash, and then whatever is left would go in stock. So  
20 we think the parties are free to make offers both in cash and  
21 stock, and you're absolutely right, that if we made an offer in  
22 stock, that stock could come out immediately.

23 THE COURT: Okay. So let's make sure we're clear on  
24 that. Let's go back to my hypothetical.

25 MR. SLACK: Okay.

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1 THE COURT: We've got 100,000 dollar investment by  
2 somebody who bought the common stock under the formula, under  
3 the plan, that translates based upon the timing to 500 shares.  
4 So -- or whatever it would be if it were litigated, but if the  
5 company says we'll settle with you, and we'll give you 400  
6 shares if you accept, and the guy says yes, that person  
7 promptly gets his 400 shares, and we're done with that claim,  
8 right?

9 MR. SLACK: That's right.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. SLACK: That's right, Your Honor, done.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. SLACK: So Your Honor, a couple of other points  
14 that I think are -- I just want to give the Court some  
15 assurance that those people who didn't say hey, we just want to  
16 blow this up, and actually gave us comments on our procedures.  
17 As Your Honor knows in the reply, we made a number of changes  
18 and edits in order to make them, and be responsive to the  
19 comments we got in. And again, these are listed in our papers,  
20 so I won't go through them, but I --

21 THE COURT: Well, I just wanted to be aware of  
22 something, this is something that has been one of my favorite  
23 subjects throughout this case. Mr. Karotkin heard me say this  
24 many times. Sometimes it's difficult for me to prepare a  
25 motion when all the answers are found in a proposed order. And

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1 so I get this long, thorough reply brief, but I also am told  
2 that I can read a ninety-page proposed order, and that isn't  
3 the easiest thing to do under the time frame, and on a small  
4 screen. And so I have no idea what the proposed order says at  
5 this point. So I'm dealing with concepts, and I -- you don't  
6 have to respond to that, that's just a fact.

7 MR. SLACK: Well, I guess, Your Honor, what I would  
8 say is that in response to comments that we got, we provide for  
9 the Court's approval on notice, the proposed panel of qualified  
10 mediators, so --

11 THE COURT: And that's not a big deal.

12 MR. SLACK: Right, but I'm saying we've made a number  
13 of changes in response to comments that -- we provided  
14 additional time for some of the papers that would come in in  
15 mediation. We've clarified the mediator's authority to  
16 terminate an ADR. But again, there were people who had very  
17 specific comments. We've been responsive to that. So I just  
18 want the Court to be aware that we have made a number of  
19 changes to the procedures to deal with specific comments.

20 THE COURT: No, I am aware of that. Why don't you --  
21 unless you want to add something more now, why don't you just  
22 reserve the rest of your time, and do you want to --

23 MR. SLACK: Okay. Your Honor, I will do that.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. SLACK: Thank you.

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1 MR. ETKIN: Mr. Etkin, are you going to share the job  
2 with your colleague, or is this all on you today?

3 MR. ETKIN: I think it's actually all on my colleague.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. ETKIN: I'll assume the Karotkin position of maybe  
6 I'll sit back, maybe I won't.

7 THE COURT: Should we take you off the screen? Do you  
8 want to stay on?

9 MR. ETKIN: Yeah, you can take me off the screen, Your  
10 Honor, and I'm assuming bring Mr. Dubbs in --

11 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

12 MR. ETKIN: -- from Labaton.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Dubbs ready to come in?

14 THE CLERK: Your Honor, I don't see Mr. Dubbs has  
15 joined.

16 THE COURT: Well --

17 THE CLERK: I don't see him as a list of attendees.

18 THE COURT: Mr. --

19 MR. ETKIN: Is Mr. Canty on the phone, on the line?

20 THE COURT: Well, let's ask --

21 THE CLERK: Mr. Michael Canty is an attendee.

22 MR. ETKIN: Could you bring him --

23 THE CLERK: Shall I bring him?

24 MR. ETKIN: Would you please, Ms. Parada?

25 THE CLERK: Yes, one moment.

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1 THE COURT: Well, I just want to make sure. If Mr.  
2 Dubbs is not on the line, we won't -- obviously, we can't bring  
3 you in, so Mr. Canty --

4 MR. ETKIN: Mr. Canty is Mr. Dubbs' partner, so --

5 THE COURT: Mr. Canty, you might be the relief pitcher  
6 in the -- Mr. Slack likes baseball, so under the new baseball  
7 rules, you come in as a relief pitcher, you have to pitch to  
8 three batters, right? Okay.

9 MR. ETKIN: I apologize for the confusion, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Listen, I'm the master of confusion this  
11 week, even though I didn't --

12 MR. ETKIN: I know.

13 THE COURT: -- hit the pole and knock the thing down.  
14 Mr. Canty, I can see your name. You need to unmute your mic,  
15 and operate -- activate your camera. Okay. Mr. Canty?

16 MR. CANTY: Your Honor, I just rejoined. I don't have  
17 anything to add.

18 THE COURT: Who is speaking, Mr. Canty?

19 MR. CANTY: Yes, Your Honor. For some reason, it  
20 brought me into the room. Zoom rebooted me. I don't --

21 THE COURT: You're in. I can see you. I can barely  
22 see you, but I can hear you, and see you. So you're presenting  
23 the argument, I believe, in response --

24 MR. CANTY: Mr. Dubbs is actually presenting the  
25 argument.

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1 THE COURT: But he's not here.

2 MR. ETKIN: He's not on the line, Michael.

3 MR. CANTY: Okay. Let me see if I can get a hold of  
4 him and --

5 THE COURT: Well, we can't do that. I just -- one of  
6 you has to make the argument, or submit it on the papers. I  
7 just can't keep everybody waiting while we go looking for  
8 somebody. It's just like the courtroom.

9 MR. CANTY: I understand, Judge. I know he's been  
10 emailing me trying to join. If you could give me one moment.  
11 I'm certainly happy to make the argument if he is unavailable,  
12 but --

13 THE COURT: Well, let me ask Ms. Parada again, have  
14 you heard from Mr. Canty yet -- I'm sorry, Mr. Dubbs, yet?

15 THE CLERK: No, Your Honor. I'm searching the  
16 attendees list, and he's not there.

17 MR. CANTY: Your Honor?

18 THE CLERK: If he's logged in a different name, he  
19 could raise his hand.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Dubbs, raise your hand if you wish to  
21 be identified, otherwise we -- well, Mr. Canty, I'm just going  
22 to have to -- I apologize. I mean, I'm sorry, it's not  
23 something I'm blaming you for, I just can't keep everybody  
24 waiting.

25 MR. CANTY: Understood, Your Honor. I know that

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1 you've allotted time.

2 THE COURT: I've looked at -- Mr. Canty, I've read the  
3 briefs a lot. So you saw my questions and you also heard, I  
4 presume you heard Mr. Slack's argument. So tell me why their  
5 system won't work.

6 THE CLERK: Excuse me, Your Honor?

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: I have a hand raised. It's not an -- it's  
9 not an identified number, name. It's just numbers. Would you  
10 like me to bring that attendee in?

11 THE COURT: Okay. There's someone with a number  
12 550594. If you are a member of the bar and prepared to argue  
13 in place of Mr. Dubbs, we'll bring you in. If you are anyone  
14 else, you will be tossed out in short order. So bring 550694  
15 in, Ms. Parada.

16 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.

17 MR. CANTY: Your Honor, my understanding is that Mr.  
18 Dubbs is identified as iPad 39. I don't know if there's  
19 somebody in the audience --

20 THE COURT: I have no idea.

21 MR. CANTY: Ms. Parada --

22 THE COURT: He knows how to raise his hand.

23 MR. DUBBS: Your Honor, can you see me?

24 MR. CANTY: There's Mr. Dubbs.

25 THE COURT: All right, who is 550694?

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1 MR. DUBBS: That's Mr. Dubbs. I'm sorry I don't have  
2 my name on it. That's an antique mistake. But I'm prepared to  
3 give the argument right away.

4 THE COURT: All right, you're up.

5 MR. DUBBS: May I have --

6 THE COURT: But hold on, hold on. Ms. Parada, let's  
7 take Mr. Etkin and Mr. Canty out. It's not --

8 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: -- nothing personal. And Mr. Karotkin, I  
10 presume you want to stay on, so we'll leave you there. You can  
11 also -- all right.

12 MR. DUBBS: And Your Honor, may we let in Ms. Maker  
13 (phonetic), from Mr. Etkin's firm, who can help me with  
14 demonstratives?

15 THE COURT: Yes, do we have her?

16 THE CLERK: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Okay. We will do that.

18 THE CLERK: Yes, I will.

19 THE COURT: All right, go ahead, Mr. Dubbs.

20 MR. DUBBS: Thank you, Your Honor. And I apologize  
21 for the confusion. In terms of reserving time, I have asked --

22 THE COURT: You don't really have a reserve time on  
23 the response. This is the motion for the company.

24 MR. DUBBS: Fine. I had been asked to indicate --

25 THE COURT: You have thirty minutes.



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1 MR. DUBBS: -- that certain people would like to  
2 address the Court. We can address that later.

3 THE COURT: You've got thirty minutes for your  
4 argument.

5 MR. DUBBS: Very good. Thank you, Your Honor. I  
6 disagree with a number of things Mr. Slack said, not  
7 surprisingly. But I think it's best to deal with those in the  
8 second part of the argument, because I want to address myself  
9 to where I think Your Honor was going in your order of the  
10 other day, which is namely, if we are right, how is this thing  
11 going to really work? And that's the question --

12 THE COURT: Well, that's -- again, Mr. Dubbs, that's  
13 part of your motion.

14 MR. DUBBS: I know. Well, I am responding to their  
15 motion of saying why they're wrong and why we're better.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 MR. DUBBS: So to that end, I'd like to put on the  
18 first slide and go from there.

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 MR. DUBBS: If I may, Ms. --

21 THE COURT: Ms. Maker, you don't need to be on the  
22 screen. If you want to be on the screen, that's all right, but  
23 you don't need to be. You can put up the slides and we'll take  
24 it from there. Okay, go ahead.

25 MR. DUBBS: Okay, so we know we have 7,000 claims.

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1 And we have, as Your Honor has read the papers, but just to  
2 recap, we say that mediation of the various damages, the  
3 various nine drops, which is what determines the damages in a  
4 10b-5 action. And we must keep in mind, we are litigating 10b-  
5 5 claims. Those certain issues can be mediated all together.  
6 And they are basically damages issues. They may deal with  
7 truth on the market issues, which is essentially damages  
8 issues. They may deal with causation issues, in terms of  
9 damages, and all of those things can be dealt with in a  
10 mediation.

11 We do not want to litigate any more than my colleagues  
12 on the other side do and their suggestion to the contrary, we  
13 reject. Now, is there another way to do it that might be  
14 slightly more effective, rather than just sending it all to one  
15 big mediator? But remember, the question before the mediator  
16 is nine questions. What were the damages on nine different  
17 occasions? You then find -- after you determine what those  
18 nine damages numbers are via mediation -- you then, and this is  
19 strictly arithmetic, you then pour them through the sieve of  
20 the 510(b) conversion numbers that are already in the plan, or  
21 the order following the plan. And what results from that  
22 process is you have, for every day in the class period, you  
23 have a number.

24 You then overlay that number onto the information that  
25 you have, and I'll get into that in a minute, and you then have

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1 a number of shares that each person gets based upon their  
2 damages. Everybody gets treated the same. There are no  
3 secret --

4 THE COURT: Mr. Dubbs, but that assumes that you  
5 are -- you win on the merits. A mediation is to weigh the  
6 choices and, perhaps, compromise it. And --

7 MR. DUBBS: Well --

8 THE COURT: -- a particular claimant might only be in  
9 one of the drops. So going back to the hypothetical, maybe  
10 before you logged in, if we have a claimant that has a 100,000-  
11 dollar claim because he sold his shares on drop two, and he's  
12 offered 30,000 or 3,000 or 300 dollars, he can accept it. And  
13 if he accepts it, we're done. And if he wants to mediate it,  
14 it's mediated one-on-one. What's wrong with that?

15 MR. DUBBS: What's wrong with that is that he's really  
16 not mediating in that sense. We are mediating what that person  
17 would get if he proved liability, which is essentially what the  
18 mediation that the other side proposes. If he doesn't like  
19 that, if he says, I can get more than X dollars per share, then  
20 he is -- he can go his own way. But at that point, as I will  
21 show, he is climbing uphill because we have done an analysis  
22 and a quantification of every day in the class period and what  
23 people who bought it at certain times would get in that class  
24 period. So it is a universal table, a universal matrix of what  
25 everyone would get. It is not individual mediations by people

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who were unrepresented.

So we get nine numbers and we pour those through the conversion factors and we get a number for every day in the class period. The other --

THE COURT: Well, tell me if I'm misunderstanding something. It seems to me that, again, this sounds more like your procedure. But a mediator will be the mediator and you, let's say if you are the lawyer representing the class plaintiffs, you will argue and propose why your number is better. And somebody representing the company on the other side will argue why his or her number is better. And the mediator will do what they do all the time and try to get a consensus on your side and the other side.

That's what I understand to be the case in the world where you live, the way class actions are resolved. But this is a bankruptcy, where we already have a claims objection process in place. So I'm not -- you've got to convince me why we should -- I should scrap that procedure. At least to try it first. You heard Mr. Slack concede that maybe his proposals will not be productive and maybe we'll have to go to some sort of a class later. But what's wrong with trying it -- be an advocate here, but tell me why it's detrimental to the class members to go with the company's proposal here?

MR. DUBBS: Because many of the people who will be given offers to will not be represented, will not have the

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1 tools to analyze whether it's a good offer or a bad offer, will  
2 have no idea what their damages could be if they fought or if  
3 they didn't fight. They're going to pick off a lot of small  
4 fish and they're probably going to give premiums to some big  
5 fish. That is not equity --

6 THE COURT: What is wrong with that? As a  
7 philosophical matter, what is wrong with a negotiation and a  
8 compromise? I'm having trouble --

9 MR. DUBBS: There's nothing --

10 THE COURT: We just had 150 million people vote and  
11 they voted. Whether they voted intelligently or emotionally,  
12 they voted. So why shouldn't I just let 7,000 people or some  
13 subset of them make a choice first, before I take it away from  
14 them and tell them that I'm going to let you do it for them?

15 MR. DUBBS: Because the people who voted recently had  
16 information. We could debate endlessly how good the  
17 information was.

18 THE COURT: No, we can't --

19 MR. DUBBS: We had -- they had information. They had  
20 debates. They had a lot of things. We have to think about  
21 many of the smaller shareholders in PG&E. They don't know  
22 anything about securities law damages. They don't have a clue  
23 what's going on. All they know is they lost money in the  
24 market and they need help and they need some framework to get  
25 this in some sort of a comprehensive form. That is what class

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1 actions do, because you have people who have an incentive to  
2 recover for them. They have an --

3 THE COURT: But Mr. Dubbs, again, I'm -- you're back  
4 in your world, instead of my world and Mr. Slack's world. That  
5 is true. What you described is clearly what I understand to be  
6 the way class actions work. But this is not. That's why  
7 you're trying, for the second time, to persuade me to use the  
8 class action process when Mr. Slack and the company would like  
9 to suggest a more traditional bankruptcy process.

10 And your argument is, well, some of these people will  
11 be picked off as rubes. Well, maybe they will be. But they  
12 also will be given a chance up front to get money. And they  
13 can make that decision, can't they? We don't -- this isn't a  
14 paternalistic society. We say, would you like some money or  
15 not?

16 MR. DUBBS: Well, it's not a paternalistic society,  
17 but built into the process, as I understand it, is an attempt  
18 to be at least equitable and even-handed, to the extent that  
19 one can. If one tries and fails and somebody's a rube, well,  
20 fine. So be it. Tough luck for them. But they have to have  
21 the information and they have to have some view of what is  
22 equitable and what other people are getting.

23 And people read polls and people can argue endlessly  
24 about are you voting because you think your next door neighbor  
25 is going to vote? Well, that's information. It may be right.

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1 It may be wrong. But it's information. These people have zero  
2 information. And they're being --

3 THE COURT: But Mr. Dubbs, what they -- they don't  
4 have zero information, because they know that they lost money.  
5 I know if I bought stock at sixty-five dollars and sold it at  
6 twenty that something went wrong. And I have a procedure that  
7 I've already placed in place, without any serious objection,  
8 that deals with 12,000 claimants that lost money and there is a  
9 mediation offer and acceptance process underway -- just getting  
10 underway.

11 We have, in -- for the fire victims, a similar  
12 procedure that's being done away from the court. And why  
13 should people that invested in stock have a different kind of  
14 option, at least for openers? I still have to be persuaded  
15 more effectively than why that -- why I should at least avoid  
16 and take away at least that option, at least for the first try  
17 at resolving some of these things.

18 MR. DUBBS: Well for openers, because in the stock  
19 case, as opposed to someone who was a fire victim -- and I  
20 don't mean to speak for every fire victim -- but the fire  
21 victim knows that a fire burned down their cabin and maybe they  
22 were hurt.

23 THE COURT: Right.

24 MR. DUBBS: What the stockholder doesn't know is they  
25 don't know to what extent -- let's say they lost ten dollars

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1 per share. They don't know whether that ten dollars was caused  
2 not at all, by statements of the company that became public  
3 that were false, or it became -- the stock went down because  
4 there was news of a fire or some blend of the two.

5 And that is the difference, that they don't know the  
6 different causes of what caused their stock to lose. And they  
7 will never know, because they don't have the resources --

8 THE COURT: But don't the 7,000 people who filed  
9 claims know that they got a special notice from the bankruptcy  
10 court that said you may have damages because of stock and if  
11 you had -- if you fit within the dates from 2015 to 2018 and  
12 you can demonstrate that your shares or your stock dropped,  
13 file a claim. Now, 7,000 people got the message that they  
14 could assert a claim and they did.

15 MR. DUBBS: Well, asserting a claim and knowing the  
16 strength of the claim and what one should take or not take are  
17 two totally different things, with all due respect.

18 The other point, if we could have the next slide, is  
19 under our procedure, we have the ability and, we think, the  
20 opportunity to get rid of all 7,000 claims. They are not going  
21 to get rid of 7,000 claims in six months.

22 THE COURT: But you've conceded that it may be  
23 appropriate to have me exercise my discretion and permit an  
24 opt-out of your otherwise so-called mandatory class.

25 MR. DUBBS: That is correct. And having --



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1 THE COURT: Well, you won't -- you might not get rid  
2 of 7,000 claims in one fell swoop. You might get rid of some  
3 or a lot, but you won't necessarily get rid of the ones that  
4 want to fight their own battle.

5 MR. DUBBS: The number of claimants who fight their  
6 own battle in securities cases, if it's five percent, it's a  
7 lot. And most of those people, once they understand the  
8 process and once they understand that you have negotiated the  
9 nine dates, which are the nine dates that drive the damages,  
10 and that you've negotiated those fairly, then they're going to  
11 think twice and more often than not -- more often than not,  
12 people say let me back into the class. And I say that as one  
13 of the people who, in the Worldcom Securities case, litigated a  
14 half a billion dollar -- when that was real money -- opt-out  
15 case for a big bank. But they had special facts and they were  
16 prepared to invest.

17 Most people aren't in that role when they opt-out.  
18 They want to get ten percent more than the class. And if they  
19 don't think they can, they opt back in. So the idea that this  
20 is going to -- there's no track record of massive opt-outs in  
21 these kinds of cases that upset the apple cart.

22 May we have the next couple slides and go through  
23 these real quick and maybe it would help? Ms. Maker  
24 (phonetic)? So we have nine alleged drops. The bottom line is  
25 we try to get shares for each day. Next slide, please? After

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1 you get that, then the rest is done by computer. That is  
2 why --

3 THE COURT: No, I understand that. But it still  
4 requires the basic concession by the company that they are  
5 liable for anything.

6 MR. DUBBS: Well, they don't go --

7 THE COURT: This is -- we have to --

8 MR. DUBBS: -- into any mediation with the theory -- I  
9 mean, if they think they're going into 7,000 mediations  
10 thinking they're not going to pay a penny, I mean, this whole  
11 thing is --

12 THE COURT: No, no, no. That isn't what I meant.  
13 What I meant is that the company has said repeatedly that they  
14 haven't admitted to any liability. Now obviously, I wasn't  
15 born yesterday, either. But I understand the computer matches  
16 the matrix and the calculation. So that statement resolved  
17 easily determines shares per claimant, but that doesn't say  
18 anything about easily determined, definitive missed liability  
19 to the claimants. You still have to mediate the basic,  
20 fundamental economic issue, right?

21 MR. DUBBS: If you want to send the whole thing to a  
22 mediator to have the merits incorporated into those nine  
23 numbers, you can do that. And a lot of places do that. My  
24 assumption was that they didn't want to -- by they, I meant  
25 PG&E -- did not want to have a fight endlessly about merits.

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1 But we could have a fight about merits or a mediation about  
2 merits. But guess what, it would be one fight about merits,  
3 one fight about merits in front of a sophisticated mediator.  
4 And then that judgment would be incorporated into those nine  
5 numbers.

6 THE COURT: I understand. But again, we're going  
7 around in circles, because all the matrixes and formulas and  
8 steps are meaningless until the company admits liability in the  
9 first place, or does so -- mediates and concedes, right? And  
10 so you might have your formula say this is what we think every  
11 credit or every claimant will get, based upon the day that he  
12 or she sold the stock or bought the stock. But that would,  
13 then, be the basis on which you compromise it to some other  
14 number, wouldn't it?

15 MR. DUBBS: Yes, but --

16 THE COURT: The company isn't going to just roll over  
17 and said, we're liable, just tell us how much we owe.

18 MR. DUBBS: That's true. But what would happen is, as  
19 follows, in the real world. Okay, let's assume that we've  
20 figured out what the dollar damages per drop are. And PG&E  
21 says, you know what, we didn't cause the fires that happened  
22 around then. That was lightning. We have no liability.

23 There would be a discussion. And there would be a  
24 debit to whatever number applies -- whichever those nine  
25 numbers applies.

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1 THE COURT: Right.

2 MR. DUBBS: There are other drops where, with all due  
3 respect, we would say they're going to have a much tougher  
4 climb on liability. And then the credit would be a lot less.

5 THE COURT: Right.

6 MR. DUBBS: That would be worked out.

7 THE COURT: That's right. It would be worked out at  
8 the -- it would be worked out through the mediation --

9 MR. DUBBS: Yes.

10 THE COURT: -- and at the end of the day, out would go  
11 the notice of the class, saying we've cut a deal. We've  
12 negotiated. If you accept this, this is what you're going to  
13 get. And there'll be a hearing.

14 MR. DUBBS: Well --

15 THE COURT: I know -- you know what happens better  
16 than I, but I know what happens.

17 MR. DUBBS: No, no, no. But the point is you end up  
18 with incorporating the merits, incorporating -- by merits, I'm  
19 also talking about alternative causes, all kinds of other  
20 stuff. You end up with nine numbers and then it's arithmetic.  
21 And they can say yes or no, that's right, after that.

22 But guess -- what's the difference? The difference is  
23 they're represented. They have somebody at the table who can  
24 talk to PG&E and talk to Mr. Slack about why his merits  
25 arguments are so, so lousy, or he has a little bit of a case,

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1 so we'll give him a credit.

2 All these other people sitting out there, they're  
3 going to get offered a few bucks and they're going to say, give  
4 us more information, and they're going to say, it's not worth  
5 it. So you know, where does the equity come into this?

6 If they get the information and then they say they  
7 don't like it, for whatever reason, fine. They've had their  
8 day in court. This procedure of theirs, which is totally one-  
9 sided, does not give them any representation, doesn't  
10 accomplish that.

11 Now, let's go to the next slide and I'm finishing up.  
12 We can get this done in six months to settlement. That's  
13 opposed to setting up checks, but to settlement.

14 THE COURT: Well, wait. Excuse me, six months from  
15 when?

16 MR. DUBBS: Six months from the selection of the  
17 mediator.

18 THE COURT: But Mr. Dubbs, how would this process  
19 correlate with whatever's going to happen at the district  
20 court? Separate?

21 MR. DUBBS: It's totally separate.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. DUBBS: And I don't see -- I really don't  
24 understand their arguments under -- I mean, maybe we can come  
25 up with some bizarre law school hypotheticals, but they're on

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1 separate tracks.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Listen, I'm the master of bizarre  
3 hypotheticals. So this Court, meaning me, I select, with  
4 input, the nationally-recognized mediator is Ms. So-and-so.

5 MR. DUBBS: Right.

6 THE COURT: Then what happens?

7 MR. DUBBS: Then what happens is we meet with a  
8 mediator and we then have a fork in the road. I won't quote  
9 Yogi Berra, but there's a fork in the road and then the Court  
10 has to make a decision, because there are a couple of decisions  
11 that Mr. Slack alluded to, which would be helpful to decide up  
12 front.

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. DUBBS: Particularly, what we're calling bulk  
15 claims. Are bulk claims legal or not legal? PGE wants to know  
16 this, even though they really -- they say they don't, because  
17 they want to see what the exposure is. We know that there  
18 are -- we know for a fact that there are two billion dollars of  
19 liquidated claims in so-called bulk claims and there may be  
20 more. We don't know. But it's a big number. So someone has  
21 to decide, somewhere around along the line, are bulk claims in  
22 the pot or are they not in the pot?

23 Now, while that's being decided by you, we're not just  
24 stopping the train. We're going to send notice to the class,  
25 explaining this whole process and how it's going to work so

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1 that they are informed. And we're also going to, if there's  
2 missing trading data -- now, Mr. Slack sort of modified what  
3 they were going to do. Standard procedure is your people look  
4 at the trading data. If there's a hole in the trading data,  
5 you send them a letter. You call them up and fill the hole.  
6 You don't ask them for everything all over again. All it does  
7 is scare them -- scare the hell out of them, okay? So if we  
8 decide -- if Your Honor decides, let's decide bulk claims, we  
9 say that's six weeks.

10 May we have the next slide, please? That information,  
11 that decision on bulk claims goes into the mediator's tent.  
12 And that permits the mediator to have an idea of what the total  
13 exposure is. And then we go into what we've just had a long  
14 discussion about, which is the mediation of the nine dates and  
15 the tradeoffs that go with it. And we say three months for  
16 that. It may be --

17 THE COURT: (Indiscernible) that could be three  
18 months --

19 MR. DUBBS: It may be less than that.

20 THE COURT: Yeah, it could --

21 MR. DUBBS: Well, it may be less than that. I don't  
22 know.

23 THE COURT: No, I understand. I understand your  
24 point. Okay.

25 MR. DUBBS: I mean, that's -- and then we have it

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1 settled, okay? Then we will have -- the bet is that after that  
2 six months, there are going to be more of those 7,000 claims  
3 that are effectively dealt with than under our colleague's  
4 proposal, okay?

5 Next slide, please? So we want fair and equitable  
6 treatment. We want to avoid litigation. And we can minimize  
7 opt-outs, if you have a damages formula and people are forced  
8 to say, can I really do much better? Do I really want to go  
9 and spend \$200,000 with a damages analysis?

10 THE COURT: Well --

11 MR. DUBBS: And 99 out of 100 times, it's no.

12 THE COURT: I think you've already answered my  
13 question, but one of the questions that I had as I read the  
14 briefs and read some of the cases on this, and particularly the  
15 question of whether under this particular rule that's at play  
16 here, I -- under what circumstances do I express the discretion  
17 to permit the opt-outs. I take it that takes place somewhere  
18 down the road. In other words, after -- what, after the  
19 mediation has happened, I then decide whether to permit opt-  
20 outs?

21 MR. DUBBS: Generally speaking, there are two  
22 opportunities to opt-out. When you are given the first notice  
23 that there's a class action and a notice of this is how it's  
24 going to work, somebody can say, I want no part of it. I opt  
25 out. There are very few of those.



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1           THE COURT: Well, no, I'm aware of that. I mean, I  
2 get them in the mail every now and then about somebody that  
3 wants to give me \$4.95 for something I bought five years ago.  
4 But does that apply here, too? In other words, we are in the  
5 situation where post-confirmation with a finite group of known  
6 claimants, you've asked that I activate this Rule 723 subset.

7           And so are there two options -- two decision times or  
8 only one for the people to opt-out under these circumstances?

9           MR. DUBBS: There are two.

10          THE COURT: Okay.

11          MR. DUBBS: When they first find out about it and if  
12 they say, no, I don't want to have anything to do with it. I  
13 want to call up Mr. Slack and talk to Mr. Slack or do whatever  
14 the hell they want.

15          THE COURT: Right.

16          MR. DUBBS: That's option 1. That's at the beginning.  
17 At the end, when they know what they're going to get, or  
18 they're going to at least know the matrix of what they're going  
19 to get, they have a second alternative to opt-out. And then,  
20 they can opt out and sail their own course.

21          THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Dubbs, under the time -- I  
22 appreciate very much the way you've teed it up this way. But  
23 I'm going to stick with the general time parameters. So you're  
24 just about out of time. Why don't you hit the final points you  
25 want to make and then --

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1 MR. DUBBS: Can I hit my final slide and then --

2 THE COURT: Sure. Sure. And I have the slides. I'm  
3 looking at them here, anyway, yeah.

4 MR. DUBBS: Fine. Okay. We don't think, for the  
5 reasons -- and you've heard argument on this, so this is,  
6 concededly, a bit repetitive. There are pluses and minuses to  
7 both formulations. But if you look at the next to last bullet  
8 point, their own statistics indicate that under their  
9 formulation, they are only going to get rid of maybe half,  
10 maybe more of these -- this group -- I was hesitating to say  
11 class, this group, via their mechanism.

12 And then what do you do? Our proposal has the strong  
13 chance of getting rid of many, many more.

14 THE COURT: No, I understand. What is the source for  
15 the statement about they'd only have -- there'd only be 3,000  
16 left? Again, something in their document?

17 MR. DUBBS: Well, they quoted a statistic in their  
18 brief from -- that mediations were successful X percent of the  
19 time. And I believe it was the Northern District of California  
20 analysis. But I will stand corrected. Mr. Slack would know  
21 better than I.

22 THE COURT: You think it's in the reply brief?

23 MR. DUBBS: Yes, I do, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay, okay. All right. Thank you very  
25 much, Mr. Dubbs. I appreciate your arguments. I'm going to

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1 let Mr. Slack have his closing eight minutes and then we'll  
2 switch to the other motion. I'll probably hear back from you  
3 again in a few minutes.

4 Mr. Slack.

5 MR. SLACK: Your Honor, thank you. Just a couple of  
6 points in response. I may or may not use my eight minutes,  
7 depending on what kind of questions you have, Your Honor. But,  
8 you know, one thing which I heard is, you know, the mediation  
9 is going to be this -- is going to be this mediation about  
10 damages in eight drops. We don't agree that, you know, you can  
11 go into a mediation and just talk about -- talk about damages.  
12 We -- you know, we don't think that that's going to be a  
13 productive way of mediating.

14 And what I would tell you, Your Honor, is as I  
15 mentioned, we've already mediated with PERA, okay? The idea  
16 that we're going to be put back in and do the same thing over  
17 again, there's not any expectation that it's going to be any  
18 more successful the second time. And I'm not giving any --

19 THE COURT: Well, maybe they're tough mediators.

20 MR. SLACK: We clearly -- we clearly haven't -- and  
21 we've had an excellent mediator. Not just a good mediator,  
22 we've had an excellent mediator. So you know, that process has  
23 already been tried.

24 The second point, Your Honor --

25 THE COURT: Mr. Slack, is that reason enough to -- I

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1 mean, isn't that -- you know, isn't that a compliment here? Is  
2 he damned by faint praise? I mean, it's -- are they --

3 MR. SLACK: Well, I guess I would -- I guess --

4 THE COURT: He's tough. He's tough.

5 MR. SLACK: I guess what I would say, Your Honor, is  
6 that our proposal allows individual claimants who have filed  
7 proofs of claim who got a notice -- this is not -- and this is  
8 a very fundamental difference here of what -- of what I think  
9 Mr. Dubbs is talking about. This is not a punitive class  
10 action where you have absent shareholders. This is a situation  
11 very different, and it's a bankruptcy situation where people  
12 have actually filed proofs of claim. Hundreds if not thousands  
13 of them have filed those proofs of claim with their own  
14 counsel.

15 And the idea that we are going to displace the  
16 judgment of individuals who have taken the time to file proofs  
17 of claim on their claims -- they've said I have a claim, I was  
18 injured. The idea that we are going to displace their counsel  
19 and them and their judgment for Pera's judgment is just not  
20 appropriate. Those people very well may have different views  
21 of their claims, the strengths. They may have different  
22 desires in terms of, you know, whether they want to settle now,  
23 whether they want to fight it out.

24 But each of the individuals is not an absent class  
25 member in a punitive class. It's a very -- it's a very --

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1 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Slack, that being said, I think  
2 Mr. Etkin or Mr. Dubbs calculated, what, thirty-seven joinders  
3 to their motion. I mean, that's -- I forget if that was the  
4 number, but that's an unusually high number in a bankruptcy,  
5 even as complex as this one is. It seems to me that thirty-  
6 seven, or whatever the count is, saw fit with their lawyers to  
7 join Pera rather than your side.

8 MR. SLACK: I think you have to look --

9 THE COURT: So I mean, you can't ignore them.

10 MR. SLACK: I think you have to look at -- you have  
11 to -- well, I think you have to look at that in perspective in  
12 two different ways. Number 1, that's less than one-half of one  
13 percent of the class. And all of those were cookie cutters.  
14 So we don't know the -- you know, they went out, they had a  
15 form and they agreed to sign it. And you talk about whether we  
16 know whether people knew what they were doing. The fact is is  
17 that --

18 THE COURT: Well, hold on. Hold on, Mr. Slack.

19 MR. SLACK: I'm just saying, Your Honor, you have  
20 cookie cutters, you know, less than one-half of one percent.  
21 The other way to look at it is --

22 THE COURT: Mr. Slack -- Mr. Slack --

23 MR. SLACK: -- ninety --

24 THE COURT: -- that means ninety-nine-and-a-half  
25 percent didn't do anything. How many cookie cutters did you

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1 line up?

2 MR. SLACK: Well, I'll tell you what, Your Honor, we  
3 didn't --

4 THE COURT: One, and they didn't allow it.

5 MR. SLACK: -- have to because they didn't affect.

6 THE COURT: I mean, Balcos (phonetic) -- Balcos bailed  
7 out on you with a stipulation.

8 MR. SLACK: But the point is, is that we got no  
9 objections. I think, as you know, Your Honor, the fact is is  
10 that we had ninety-nine and a -- you know, .5 percent that  
11 didn't object to our procedure's motion, and each of them got  
12 notice, because we gave it to them. And here's the difference,  
13 in the 7023, they're trying to displace each of those people  
14 from -- you know, from having their own judgment. None of them  
15 got notice, right? So they did not go give notice to the  
16 claimant, so they're trying to represent these claimants and  
17 displace their judgment without having given them notice of  
18 their 7023 motion.

19 Your Honor, I guess I would say, you know, only one  
20 other thing and then I'll see if Mr. Karotkin has -- wants to  
21 use a couple of the minutes, which is with respect to the 3,000  
22 number, that's only the ones that end up getting mediated. We  
23 expect that most of these are going to get done just by getting  
24 settlement offers. And so we think the number that's actually  
25 going to be mediated is a -- is a very small number.

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1           You know, we think it's going to be done with offers  
2 and counter-offers, then you'll have mediations. And this is a  
3 very, very high percentage when you go through that, that  
4 process that we think -- that we ultimately think is going to  
5 get resolved. So that --

6           THE COURT: Now, Mr. Slack, when -- Mr. Slack, when  
7 Mr. Dubbs was looking at that slide and I asked him what was  
8 the source for the reference to the -- to the 3,000 mediations  
9 left, was that -- do you remember, is that in your reply brief?  
10 Or do you remember where I can --

11           MR. SLACK: Yeah, we -- yeah, so if you look at --

12           THE COURT: Do you --

13           MR. SLACK: I don't have the page, but I can get it  
14 for you before we get off.

15           THE COURT: No, I can get it. It's just in the reply  
16 brief, right?

17           MR. SLACK: I believe it's in the reply where we talk  
18 about the efficacy of mediations, not -- not --

19           THE COURT: Okay.

20           MR. SLACK: It doesn't include sort of the offer and  
21 acceptance -- the offer and acceptance piece.

22           THE COURT: No, you don't need to look at it for me.  
23 I'm not -- I'll do it. Okay. Any further thing from you?

24           MR. SLACK: Your Honor -- Your Honor, since I just --  
25 I just got a message that it's -- the reply at pages 12 to 13,

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1 so there you go.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Thanks.

3 Mr. Karotkin, you unmuted yourself. Does that mean  
4 you want to get your last word?

5 MR. KAROTKIN: Just a few minutes, Your Honor. Thank  
6 you. Stephen Karotkin, Weil, Gotshal, and Manges for the  
7 Reorganized Debtors. I think what I found very curious was Mr.  
8 Dubbs saying that the Claimants don't know anything about their  
9 damages; he has no basis to say that. It's rank speculation.  
10 These people -- these 7,000 people, many of which were  
11 sophisticated financial institutions, filed claims under  
12 penalty of perjury asserting damages. And for him to stand up  
13 before this Court and say they don't know what they're doing,  
14 or they -- they're unsophisticated is pure rank speculation.

15 And he has absolutely no idea, more rank speculation,  
16 as to how many would opt out, again, at the end of the day,  
17 Your Honor, after this other procedure they're suggesting has  
18 been going on for months and months and months and months and  
19 months, and he says don't worry about it, Judge, there's not  
20 going to be any opt-outs. Well, we already know there's going  
21 to be one big, big opt-out at five percent with his Bile Post  
22 (phonetic).

23 And I think, Your Honor, you put your finger on it at  
24 the beginning of this hearing.

25 THE COURT: Well, no. No. That misstatement was



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1 made. Bile Post only gets to opt out if I'm persuaded to let  
2 there be an opt out option.

3 MR. KAROTKIN: Okay. Well, we can address the ability  
4 to opt out later in any event. But again, you know, Bile Post  
5 acting in their self-interest clearly made a deal with Pera to  
6 avoid this issue. Okay. But you said at the beginning of the  
7 hearing, you put your finger on it, the debtors are doing a  
8 traditional bankruptcy procedure. Traditional; it's been done  
9 in many, many other cases. Let us try it. As you said, let us  
10 try it. If it doesn't work or we're crazy and wrong, you can  
11 always revisit this issue. And that's the appropriate way to  
12 proceed in a bankruptcy case where claimants have actually  
13 filed claims, Your Honor, after you insisted, over Pera's  
14 objection, that they get notice of the (indiscernible). Thank  
15 you.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Matter -- well, the debtor's ADR  
17 motion is submitted. We're going to switch to the Pera's 7023  
18 motion. Are we going to -- is this the same argument? I mean,  
19 Mr. Dubbs, are you going to present the argument, or --

20 MR. DUBBS: Your Honor, I'm going to present the  
21 argument and I'm going to try to not be duplicative.

22 THE COURT: And are you sharing it with anyone else?

23 MR. DUBBS: No. But -- well, I take that back.  
24 There's several people who have asked that we yield time to,  
25 and so to that extent, I'm sharing time with them. I'm not

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1 sharing it with Mr. Etkin or any of my colleagues.

2 THE COURT: Okay. How -- all right. So you have  
3 thirty minutes. How much time do you want to reserve? And how  
4 much -- and then how do you want to share it so we can -- so I  
5 can have people in and out? We don't -- you know I don't like  
6 to leave people in the -- on the screen if they're not going to  
7 be speaking. So --

8 MR. DUBBS: Absolutely. So --

9 THE COURT: But we -- how much -- how much do you want  
10 to reserve for reply?

11 MR. DUBBS: I want to reserve fifteen minutes for  
12 reply, and I have been asked to give -- Pillsbury has asked for  
13 two minutes to address issues on behalf of Chevron. Goodwin  
14 Procter has asked for two minutes to respond to issues on  
15 behalf of Mass Mutual. Morgan Lewis has asked for a minute and  
16 a half to address issues for Oregon Public Pension Funds, and  
17 there's a Mr. Mike Lange who would like a minute after that.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Well, so Mr. Dubbs, I think you're  
19 not leaving yourself much time for opening, but I realize these  
20 would overlap here, so I -- by my count, it's two, four, six,  
21 seven, about eight -- so you have about eight minutes --  
22 eight -- again, I'm not a precise timekeeper. So you have  
23 eight to ten now, and then, Ms. Parada, in due course, will  
24 bring in, I guess it's Mr. Warden for Chevron. I don't have  
25 the names of the counsel appearing for the other three, but

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1 they can give you their heads up and raise their hand if they  
2 wish to be brought into the room in about ten minutes. So go  
3 ahead, Mr. Dubbs. Thank you.

4 MR. DUBBS: Thank you, Your Honor. You're the last  
5 person, and I'm probably one of the least adequate persons to  
6 talk about Musicland, so I'm just going to let that -- let that  
7 pass, other than we're talking about the third Musicland factor  
8 and that I understand one has to structure the chaos of an  
9 argument somehow, but I think that blends into what the  
10 prior -- the prior discussion. And Your Honor's going to have  
11 to make a decision as to whether this is going to help the  
12 administration of the estate or not.

13 I think Mr. --

14 THE COURT: Okay. You know, what, Mr. Dubbs, you've  
15 really got to help me with the question, though, of whether  
16 this is in conflict with the matter before the district court  
17 now on your appeal.

18 MR. DUBBS: I will -- I was about to get to that.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. DUBBS: The answer is it is not because it deals  
21 with a totally different subject. It is not in any way; you  
22 have jurisdiction and in no way is it by any doctrine that one  
23 wants to invoke, law of the case, res judicata, you name it,  
24 because the factual predicates are different, there is no  
25 conflict.

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1           However, more practically, if Your Honor indicates  
2 that part or all of this matter before the Court today will  
3 proceed as a class, we will withdraw that appeal and dismiss it  
4 with prejudice.

5           THE COURT: Well, okay. I was going to ask you if  
6 you're familiar with the indicative ruling concept, and it's  
7 basically the same. I mean, your representation is what --  
8 what -- is what is it. I'll leave it at that. Okay. Fine.

9           MR. DUBBS: I think my representation is binding.

10          THE COURT: Yeah, I do -- I do, too.

11          MR. DUBBS: And there's a Supreme Court case that says  
12 that. So I have to live with that one way or the other.

13          THE COURT: I will tell you, I believe that, although  
14 the pleadings that I've looked at in the district court are  
15 perhaps a little unclear, at least the Debtor argues that it's  
16 interlocutory appeal, and if it's interlocutory appeal, the  
17 district court has not taken jurisdiction from me yet because  
18 it hasn't acted on that. And if the district judge said I  
19 treat it as interlocutory and deny, then by definition, there's  
20 no jurisdictional issue. And if the district judge says I  
21 grant it, then maybe there's a jurisdictional issue. But okay,  
22 I got your point. Go ahead.

23          MR. DUBBS: I -- I agree, but rather than win on  
24 the -- on those interesting points of jurisdictional conflict,  
25 we're interested in getting a class to represent these people

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1 who it -- it bears reminding, started off as a class and a  
2 group within the district court and then moved over here, and  
3 we have stayed with them to try to make sure that their rights  
4 are -- are vindicated.

5 So I -- as to the appeal, I think that deals with the  
6 appeal as a 7023 in Musicland. The Court is in a better  
7 position on that than anyone else, if not on Earth, at least in  
8 this courtroom, to -- to decide that -- that issue. And so the  
9 real issue becomes if you have -- if you get through 7023, can  
10 you certify this as a class. And our pleadings are very  
11 thorough, and I will just summarize them this way, there are  
12 many roads to Rome. And we have taken one that has been less  
13 traveled, but is still a viable road to Rome. And that's what  
14 these cases, some of which didn't come down yesterday, that's  
15 what our expert synthesis of it says.

16 And between Rule 23, and particularly (c)(4), which  
17 permits great discretion for issue classing, that permits the  
18 Court to get where it wants to go if it is inclined to agree  
19 with our -- our prior analysis.

20 The other thing, the flipside of Mr. Slack's argument  
21 or one of his arguments, about, well, you know, give us six  
22 months, is give us six months and see how we do. And if -- if  
23 we get a mediation with a well-known mediator with a little arm  
24 twisting on both sides, we think that we will show more.

25 The point that Mr. Slack raised -- and I'm not going

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1 to dwell on this, but I'm just -- it's part of the atmosphere,  
2 Mr. Slack says we have mediated with them before. We have not.  
3 We were mediating with the DNO carriers and the insurance  
4 people. There is 200 million dollars worth of insurance and  
5 our friends, the fire victims, have claimed all of it. So  
6 there is no insurance for these shareholders. There is a -- as  
7 of right now, there is what we can get from the estate.

8 And Mr. Karotkin says, and I admire Mr. Karotkin's  
9 experience and the Weil, Gotshal firm's bankruptcy reputation  
10 is stellar, but the one thing I do know is this is not the  
11 ordinary bankruptcy, because in the ordinary bankruptcy there's  
12 not enough to pour down to the equity, so we're not having this  
13 discussion.

14 MR. KAROTKIN: No, it's not an ordinary class action  
15 either, so --

16 MR. DUBBS: Right, it's not an ordinary class action.  
17 We're not arguing it's an ordinary class action. What we're  
18 arguing is that the basic framework and machinery that is used  
19 a hundred times a year to deal with class actions in terms of  
20 getting information, getting damages, and all of that, that is  
21 worth something. And Your Honor is going to say to me, oh, but  
22 that doesn't take into account the merits.

23 THE COURT: No, but Mr. Slack likes to tell me several  
24 times about other bankruptcy courts that have done this. Do  
25 you know of any other district court class actions that have

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1 done these specialized things in a bankruptcy? In other words,  
2 has -- has this model been happen -- occurred in a prior  
3 bankruptcy class action? Or is this a first?

4 MR. DUBBS: The --

5 THE COURT: Huh?

6 MR. DUBBS: Depending, if I understand it, the framing  
7 of the question and the answer is no. What I do know is that  
8 Mr. Slack presented to the Court on their initial motion and  
9 asked us to rely on the Lehman Brothers settlement structure,  
10 which was a securities case, which was a bankruptcy case, but  
11 was different because it dealt with derivatives and each one of  
12 these derivatives was a little different. Whereas the --

13 THE COURT: Well, it wasn't solvent either. It wasn't  
14 solvent, as I recall.

15 MR. DUBBS: And it wasn't -- it wasn't solvent. Well,  
16 it had a solvency issue and it also had an issue that the  
17 underlying widget that people were arguing about was different  
18 very much from claimant to claimant. Whereas here, the stock  
19 is effectively fungible. What it was bought and sold for is  
20 different, but the stock is called the stock.

21 THE COURT: That's -- I -- I agree with you, and this  
22 is not like a wild fire. It's not like a toxic substance. But  
23 the fact of the matter is in a solvent bankruptcy, it is sort  
24 of new ground to try something -- when the traditional claim  
25 resolution process has worked in lots and lots of bankruptcies,

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1 which include, by the way, negotiated, medicated outcomes. So  
2 go ahead. You --

3 MR. DUBBS: What -- well, I guess in that sense, I'm  
4 asking you to be brave, but I'm asking you to be brave under  
5 the -- under certain circumstances. What this Court did at the  
6 beginning of the case was put a primacy on speed, because the  
7 legislature put a gun to everybody's head for that billion  
8 dollars, and it worked. And everybody got their act together,  
9 and there was a little arm twisting, but we all got it  
10 together.

11 Now I would respectfully submit we should take our  
12 foot off the accelerator a little bit and think about equity.  
13 And those people who have lawyers that Mr. Slack talks about,  
14 like this whole group of people out there, this mass of people  
15 who have lawyers, they can opt out if Your Honor wants them to  
16 opt out. Or they're going to say -- or they're going to say,  
17 you know what, let's see how this class does and then we'll opt  
18 out if we don't like it, which is more likely what happens,  
19 ninety-nine out of a hundred times in securities class actions.

20 So with that thought, I think that a little less  
21 speed, a little bit more equity, and a little bit more emphasis  
22 on let's solve the whole problem or as much of the problem as  
23 we can. And the odds of settling 7,000 in a class context, I  
24 would respectfully submit are better than individual  
25 mediations, individual offers to people who may or may not be



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1 represented and may or may not be -- know what's going on.

2 Okay. So you knock off 1,000 of those. You knock off  
3 1,000 here. You're still going to end up with a heck of a lot.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Dubbs, let's --

5 MR. DUBBS: I've run out of time. I --

6 THE COURT: I'm going to reserve for your rebuttal and  
7 closing argument, about fifteen minutes.

8 Ms. Parada, let's take Mr. Etkin and Mr. Nolan off and  
9 bring in Mr. Warden, and I presume you have the names of the  
10 other counsel who are going to make a brief argument. I'm  
11 going to hold them to the time limits that we have said.

12 MR. Karotkin, I'll assume you want to stay on the  
13 screen, and I know Mr. Slack will. So Mr. --

14 MS. PARADA: Yes, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: -- Dubbs, we'll keep you on the screen too  
16 if you want. You can always turn your camera off if you want.

17 MR. DUBBS: That's okay. Yeah, keep me on and --

18 MS. PARADA: Your Honor, I'm bringing in Mr. Warden.  
19 And any other counsel that wishes to appear should raise their  
20 hand.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Warden, while you're waiting,  
22 please unmute your mic and activate your camera.

23 MR. WARDEN: Your Honor, I've unmuted. I don't know  
24 if the video is working.

25 THE COURT: You haven't turned your camera on, but

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1 hold on. Just state your appearance, Mr. Warden.

2 MR. WARDEN: Your Honor, I'm Philip Warden from  
3 Pillsbury for Chevron Pension Fund and the Chevron UK Pension  
4 Fund.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Lange, are you -- you need to  
6 activate your camera and unmute your mic. If you don't want to  
7 be on camera, you don't need to be.

8 And Ms. Parada, did you have anyone else?

9 Oh, Ms. Jarashow. Bring them in. Okay.

10 Ms. Jarashow, why don't you state your appearance?  
11 Unmute your mic, please?

12 MS. JARASHOW: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Kizzy  
13 Jarashow from Goodwin Procter on behalf of MML Investment  
14 Advisers.

15 THE COURT: And Ms. Feldsher, is that -- do I have  
16 your name right?

17 MS. FELDSHER: Yes, Your Honor. Jennifer Feldsher for  
18 Morgan, Lewis for the State of Oregon.

19 THE COURT: Okay. I'm -- I'm -- I'll give you each  
20 two minutes in order.

21 So Mr. Warden, you should go first, and if I don't get  
22 to see you, I'll listen to you.

23 MR. WARDEN: Your Honor, I was just on another Zoom  
24 call this morning, and it worked fine. But --

25 THE COURT: Well, I can't help you there.

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1 MR. WARDEN: Yes, sir. Let me be brief. I think --

2 THE COURT: You have to be brief.

3 MR. WARDEN: I promise. I promise. Your Honor,  
4 paragraph 3 of your order of yesterday I think captures the  
5 real essence of what I think is fair here with respect to the  
6 ADR motion. You say what assures the Court that security fraud  
7 claimants will know and understand the consequences of their  
8 choice of the offers of settlement, so will they know? No. Is  
9 there any mechanism for them to communicate across the 7,000 or  
10 so people? No. Is it -- is there going to be an evenhanded  
11 procedure? I don't think so because people aren't in  
12 communication and there's no leadership. There's no central  
13 repository of knowledge.

14 And Mr. Dubbs points out, and I know enough about 34  
15 cases to respect and agree that that is a very specialized area  
16 and will -- even people that filed detailed proofs of claim, as  
17 we did, does that mean we have made the analysis of the nine  
18 drops, and then hung numbers on them, and then are prepared to  
19 understand all of the risks and all of the downsides and accept  
20 some kind of sensible, amicable, negotiated resolution? No.  
21 So I think that under the circumstances, the best we can do is  
22 try to go with a nationally recognized mediator who will  
23 perform the analysis, create the nine drops, do the analysis.  
24 It can be negotiated. There will, I presume, be some sort of  
25 notice to claimants that, look, here's what we've done, there

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1 are arguments both ways, but we've applied a lot of  
2 intelligence and expertise and experience to this process and  
3 here are your options. To me, that is much more evenhanded and  
4 fair. And I think Your Honor's paragraph 3 speaks directly to  
5 it. How can 7,000 individuals operating independently,  
6 independent steaming, how can they possibly come up with  
7 consistent arguments.

8 And just finally, you said, well, what if somebody is  
9 a rube. Well, Your Honor, there's no reason for that. There's  
10 no reason that somebody who has a 100,000-dollar claim should  
11 take five cents on the dollar, when somebody else who has, as  
12 my client has, almost 20 million dollars on the line, would  
13 hold out for a lot more. Why can't it be uniform? I think  
14 that's the key word.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. WARDEN: Uniform. And well --

17 THE COURT: Time's up, Mr. Warden. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 Mr. Lange, you need to -- you're next. So just unmute  
20 your mic, please.

21 MR. LANGE: Thank you, Your Honor. My name is Mike  
22 Lange. I'm senior vice president for Worldwide Litigation at  
23 Financial Recovery Technologies. FRT is a technology company  
24 that provides claim filing services for institutional  
25 investors. And about half of our clients, we are one of the

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1 firms that move to intervene and join in the objections to the  
2 Debtor's proposed process for resolving the claims.

3 With powers of attorney from each of our clients, we  
4 submitted claim forms before the bar date for forty-two  
5 clients, with more than a billion dollars in damages. These  
6 included eleven public and private employee retirement systems.  
7 Between these and the other financial service firms for whom  
8 we've filed, this represents the savings and retirement monies  
9 for thousands of employees, retirees, and fellow citizens.  
10 These are real people with meaningful losses.

11 We've reviewed the pleadings. We've heard the  
12 arguments today. And on behalf of our clients, we urge the  
13 Court to reject the Debtor's proposed plan as unfair and  
14 inequitable. It uses a divide and conquer strategy that  
15 requires each claimant to separately fight for their rights on  
16 common questions and issues. It creates a series of procedural  
17 hurdles and legal traps that have no bearing on the merits of  
18 their claims but will have the result of winnowing down those  
19 claims or eliminating them by attrition.

20 Their proposed process, I think, is resource intensive  
21 and inefficient for both the Court and parties. It will  
22 greatly extend the duration of these proceedings and creates  
23 the risk, if not the certainty, of inconsistent outcomes for  
24 similarly situated claimants.

25 We urge instead that the Court grant the motion to

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1 certify the class. Doing so --

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. LANGE: -- will enable the client -- them to speak  
4 with and negotiate with one voice, stand on equal footing with  
5 the Debtor, and permit questions common to all of them to be  
6 resolved once in an efficient way with consistent application  
7 and fair outcomes. Thank you, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Lange.

9 Ms. Jarashow, it's your turn.

10 MS. JARASHOW: Thank you, Your Honor. Again, Kizzy  
11 Jarashow from Goodwin Procter on behalf of MML Investment  
12 Advisers and certain of its funds. Your Honor asked earlier  
13 why the procedures for resolution of the rescission and damage  
14 claims should be any different from procedures for fire  
15 victims. In my opinion, it all comes down to the issue of  
16 measuring damages, which is not at all as straightforward for  
17 securities law claims as it is for fire damage claims.

18 THE COURT: Wait, will you say that again, please?

19 MS. JARASHOW: The -- that the issue of measuring  
20 damages is not as straightforward. I'm sorry, are you having  
21 trouble hearing me, Your Honor?

22 THE COURT: No. I can hear you.

23 MS. JARASHOW: Okay, great.

24 THE COURT: You mean not as straightforward on the  
25 fire claims?

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1 MS. JARASHOW: Not as straightforward for securities  
2 law.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Well, why not? You have an  
4 investment date. You bought the stock or you sold the stock.  
5 That's a little more precise than if your house burned down.

6 MS. JARASHOW: Yes. But again -- and I'm not a  
7 securities law expert, but you will have to determine whether  
8 or not there's -- there are appropriate damages resulting from  
9 that stock sale. And that issue of damage methodology should  
10 be addressed up front prior to engaging in months of ongoing  
11 settlement discussions and mediation and incurrence of cost by  
12 all parties associated with that.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MS. JARASHOW: And so I know the Debtors have said  
15 today that they're going to send settlement offers to Claimants  
16 shortly after they receive trading information. But like I  
17 just said, I don't see how the Debtors can realistically settle  
18 any claims until we've landed on an appropriate methodology for  
19 valuing damages.

20 THE COURT: Well, what's wrong with --

21 MS. JARASHOW: Respectfully, I believe --

22 THE COURT: -- what's wrong with the traditional offer  
23 and acceptance?

24 MS. JARASHOW: What is that offer going to be based  
25 off of?

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1 THE COURT: Does it matter?

2 MS. JARASHOW: I think it does.

3 THE COURT: I've heard -- Mr. Dubbs argued about we  
4 should slow down. Now, keep in mind that the bankruptcy's up  
5 to its two-year anniversary in January, and therefore, a lot of  
6 the victims who lost their investments, lost them several years  
7 ago. And if one of them is offered an amount that he or she is  
8 willing to accept, then the check's in the mail. What's wrong  
9 with that?

10 MS. JARASHOW: What is wrong with that is similar to  
11 what Mr. Lange and Mr. Warden stated and Mr. Dubbs stated  
12 earlier, is that these smaller mom and pop investors may very  
13 well be motivated by a short-term gain, when --

14 THE COURT: What's wrong with that?

15 MS. JARASHOW: Nothing wrong with that if they want  
16 to. And they certainly have the right to. But if we allow the  
17 issue of damage methodology to be addressed up front, then they  
18 can have a more informed basis upon which to make their  
19 decision.

20 THE COURT: Okay. I've got you. Thank you. Oh, you  
21 have -- did you want to say something else?

22 MS. JARASHOW: Yeah. Just one final note, Your Honor.  
23 I believe Mr. Slack confirmed earlier, but I just want to make  
24 sure that in the event that the Court does approve the  
25 procedures motion, claimants like my clients, who provided all



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1 required trading history, will be excluded from any additional  
2 information request and not be forced to spend time and money  
3 to submit that information yet again.

4 THE COURT: And Mr. Slack can respond to that. But  
5 wait until it's his turn to do so. Okay. Thank you, Ms.  
6 Jarashow.

7 Ms. Feldsher?

8 MS. FELDSHER: Thank you, Your Honor. Jennifer  
9 Feldsher for Morgan Lewis on behalf of the State of Oregon for  
10 its public employee retirement funds. Your Honor, I think the  
11 key things that we've heard this morning that I would highlight  
12 as neither approach seems to preclude the other. So in either  
13 way, the Court can take an offramp if it doesn't work and go  
14 with the other approach. So the question is how do we decide  
15 which one to start out with. And obviously, the Court is going  
16 to make that determination.

17 But I would just like to point out that the suggestion  
18 that it's likely that the Debtors are going to make good offers  
19 right out of the gate such that everybody's going to accept  
20 offers, I would welcome that and I look forward to finding that  
21 in my mailbox. But, one, the Debtors didn't reach out to ask  
22 any opinions even after we filed the joinder, perhaps because  
23 they thought I received the cookie cutter one. But I think  
24 they know me better than that.

25 And the second is, I think when you look at their

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1 procedures, it belies the notion, Your Honor, that that is  
2 what's going to happen. And the reason I say that is as  
3 follows: The first is, we filed proofs of claim on behalf of  
4 the State of Oregon. We spent an extensive amount of time  
5 doing that. These were not regular proofs of claim. These  
6 were not traditional proofs of claim. They required extensive  
7 information, including separately listing in chronological  
8 order from April 29th, 2015 to November 15th, 2018, every  
9 purchase, every sale, your ending holdings. This was not  
10 information that certainly my funds had easily available to  
11 them. And our firm spent an extensive amount of time. And our  
12 clients incurred an extensive amount of expenses having us  
13 complete all of that information to ensure we didn't foot  
14 fault.

15 So when you look at that, and you have procedures that  
16 now say we don't care what you submitted, we haven't even  
17 really looked at it, we want you now to submit it all again,  
18 but now we'd like you to go out to July 1, 2020, I don't know  
19 the significance of July 1, 2020, but if you don't, you foot  
20 faulted and even though you filed a proof of claim on time,  
21 you're out, it's problematic.

22 And it really goes to the heart of Your Honor's  
23 statements about why can't we try the traditional approach.  
24 We're happy to get paid sooner rather than later. But when you  
25 look at these processes, they are a hundred percent geared and

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designed to knock people out of the gate.

I have no way of knowing why the Debtors are asking now for information on July 1, 2020. Why they aren't taking the information I provided already and telling me what's missing, because that's what's required under 502. Our claim is -- our client's claim is valid, unless there's an objection to it. There has been no objection to it.

But now we're being asked to submit new information. The question is why. And what's the process for allowing my client to speak up and say, we don't agree, you don't need information until July 1, 2020, Debtors, and we shouldn't have to provide it without losing our claim. That's really the problem. There's nothing in the ADR that allows -- that I could see -- and maybe I'm not reading it, I'm happy to be proven wrong.

I'm heartened to hear Mr. Slack say today that they aren't going to make people refile information. The question is if they don't live up to that, what's the recourse? How do I speak up? How does my client speak up without losing their claims? And if we have to speak up, then you're incurring costs again. And then you look at it and say, why are we making individuals incur all of these expenses? Why are the procedures designed to foot fault everybody rather than get them a settlement offer as quickly as possible and get them settled and moved away? And if those procedures are onerous,

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1 then do we start with a more collective process, which is  
2 what's being proposed by PERA? And if it doesn't work in a  
3 collective format, can't we just offramp back to individual  
4 offers at that point? It's all about cost and expenses.

5 So I think I'm over my minute and a half, Your Honor.  
6 But of course, if you have any questions, I would be glad to  
7 answer them.

8 THE COURT: I just -- my only question is that you  
9 must play a lot of tennis with the reference to the foot fault.  
10 No. I appreciate your --

11 MS. FELDSHER: I have a fourteen year old that is on  
12 that path, Your Honor. So we live, breathe and eat, sleep and  
13 spend all of my cash on tennis. Yes.

14 THE COURT: No, I appreciate your comments and your  
15 thoughts. And I don't need to hear anything else. So I'm  
16 going to --

17 MS. FELDSHER: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: -- switch now to Mr. Slack. I'm going to  
19 tell -- ask Ms. Parada to take Mr. Lange, Ms. Feldsher, Mr.  
20 Warden, and Ms. Jarashow off the camera and off the screen.

21 And Mr. Slack, you have thirty minutes.

22 MR. LANGE: Your Honor, if I could have -- I know it's  
23 not my turn. But there's something I forgot to say. And in  
24 fairness to Mr. Slack, he may want to respond. It will take  
25 fifteen seconds.

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1 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

2 MR. LANGE: We have said in our briefs, some might say  
3 ad nauseum, that we needed a skilled mediator in this area.  
4 And one of those would be Layn Phillips, who was already  
5 mediating. And Mr. Slack referred to him earlier, which is why  
6 I asked. There are others such as --

7 THE COURT: I don't think you should name people. I'm  
8 aware of Layn Phillips' reputation. But I don't -- at this  
9 point, I don't think it's appropriate for you --

10 MR. LANGE: Fair enough.

11 THE COURT: -- to give any names.

12 MR. LANGE: Very good. All right. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: I was -- I must have heard the phrase  
14 "nationally recognized" half a dozen times. And I was trying  
15 to think if I could come up with someone no one's ever heard of  
16 who was very experienced anyway, and pick that person. But --  
17 no, but I -- okay.

18 So Mr. Slack, I'm going to turn to you. But I want  
19 you specifically to tell me whether you want more time to file  
20 something in response to Prof. Bratt's declaration.

21 MR. SLACK: Your Honor, our view there is that,  
22 obviously, it's a legal expert, which is inappropriate. I  
23 don't think, Your Honor, it's appropriate. And I don't think  
24 we'd have the desire to go and get another law professor to  
25 essentially write a legal brief. But, Your Honor, I would

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1 suggest that if you're not going to strike it, we would be  
2 happy to put in a brief that essentially responds to it -- a  
3 short brief that responds to it, which --

4 THE COURT: No. I don't want to do that. My point is  
5 you made -- you complained that the Bratt declaration showed up  
6 and we had a law professor on a reply brief giving me advice.  
7 And I'm willing to let you file a dueling law professor's  
8 statement if you want. I don't think it's necessary. I am not  
9 going to be making findings of fact in the traditional sense.

10 So I think it's perfectly okay for a Court to ask for  
11 a little guidance from experts. And if you have an expert who  
12 has a different take on it, I would let you have time to do  
13 that. But I don't want another brief because the other side  
14 will want to file another brief.

15 So before we end today, you tell me whether you want  
16 two weeks to file a declaration. If not --

17 MR. SLACK: Okay.

18 THE COURT: -- I'm going to take it submitted. Okay.

19 MR. SLACK: We'll do that. Your Honor, one other  
20 comment before I start my time. I think what happened here is  
21 at the start of Mr. Dubbs' argument on the procedures motion, I  
22 think he was about to say he wanted to split his time with the  
23 folks that just spoke. And I -- because I think every one of  
24 them really spoke about the procedures motion and not the 7023,  
25 which we've already --

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1 THE COURT: Yeah.

2 MR. SLACK: -- which we've already dealt with. So  
3 what I guess I would ask is a little flexibility. I'm not -- I  
4 don't think we have a lot to say to the folks. But all of that  
5 really should have gone with the procedures motion. And I'd  
6 ask for a little leeway just in case we run over, which I very  
7 well may not.

8 THE COURT: Yeah. I have to say, I take a little of  
9 the blame. I debated merging them altogether and knew that  
10 we'd have some overlap. So you have the flexibility.

11 MR. SLACK: Thank you, Your Honor. I guess starting  
12 out, Your Honor, with respect to the comments that we got  
13 really on the ADR procedures, what I would say is a couple of  
14 things. Number one, Your Honor -- and I think this is  
15 important. Anybody who wants to hire PERA as their counsel,  
16 and to sort of join in them representing them in settlement  
17 offers or mediation, can do that. So to the extent --

18 THE COURT: You don't mean PERA. You mean Mr. Dubbs'  
19 firm or one of the law firms.

20 MR. SLACK: Right. But I'm saying they can join  
21 together. PERA's counsel can be hired. And they can act. So  
22 anybody who wants to do that can call Mr. Dubbs, and Mr. Dubbs  
23 can represent them in connection with this process. It's our  
24 view, Your Honor, that as we talked about, it really is not a  
25 separate -- this is not your classic class action. And the

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1 folks here did file proofs of claim, as Mr. Karotkin said. And  
2 so I think that point is really the most important.

3 As to the question about information -- and I think  
4 what's important here, Your Honor, is that while there were  
5 folks that put in extensive information with respect to the  
6 class period, as we put in our papers, the securities law has  
7 very particular periods in which you need information in order  
8 to know damages. And one of those, for example, on the  
9 equity -- and this is all in our papers, so I won't repeat  
10 it -- is there's what's called a ninety-day bounce back. So  
11 you have to look at the trading in equity ninety days after the  
12 class period.

13 We did not get that information from the vast majority  
14 of people. And so that's just one example where people could  
15 have very well provided information, but it's not sufficient  
16 for purposes of calculating damages under the securities laws.  
17 And I won't be belabor it again, it's in our papers.

18 THE COURT: But it's not -- Mr. Slack, if you let --  
19 let's take an example. I'm going to look in my -- Ms.  
20 Feldsher. So if you send her a letter and said I need more  
21 information on the ninety-day lookback, isn't that all you  
22 need? Why do you have to tell her she has to do an entire new  
23 proof of claim? It's like everything else. You correctly  
24 cited my decision in Heath about informal inquiries for  
25 information without going through the formal claim objection.



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1 But a little informal letter to opposing counsel that says,  
2 give me this -- some more information seems to go a long way,  
3 right? (Indiscernible).

4 MR. SLACK: We don't disagree, Your Honor. I mean, I  
5 would say that one of the things that is most beneficial about  
6 the information that we're seeking and the way we're seeking it  
7 is we did set up a website with easy dropdowns. It's a very  
8 simple process. And having the information in one database is  
9 just a very -- both convenient as well as allows them the  
10 ability to do the kind of calculations that need to be done.  
11 So that was the point of this. And obviously, there are a lot  
12 of people -- a lot of folks that we would need information  
13 from. So it's a very simple process. It's not going to be  
14 burdensome given the way that the menus work online.

15 THE COURT: No, I'm not saying -- Ms. Parada, I see  
16 Mr. Nolan raised his hand again.

17 MS. PARADA: Yes, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: So we can bring him in. I presume he  
19 wants to do something with Mr. Dubbs.

20 But go ahead, Mr. Slack.

21 MR. SLACK: No. Mr. Nolan is going to clear up a  
22 couple of our slides for 7023.

23 THE COURT: I mean, I'm sorry. I had Mr. Nolan  
24 identified with his opponent. My error. Okay. He's coming  
25 back in here.

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1           MR. SLACK: So Your Honor, I'm going to turn to the  
2 7023 motion. And really, you know, PERA's renewed 7023 motion  
3 is an attempt to put a square peg into a round hole. It  
4 doesn't work and it can't work. Now, on the merits, PERA'S  
5 tried to shoehorn the securities claims in two provisions of  
6 Rule 23(b)(1) that simply do not and cannot apply. And why did  
7 they do that? I mean, that's sort of the question. Once you  
8 understand that, you understand how -- why that was done, why  
9 this really doesn't work, and why it's, again, a square peg  
10 into a round hole. Because as their law professor points out,  
11 securities cases are typically certified using 23(b)(3). The  
12 reason they couldn't do that here and the reason they decided  
13 not to is that -- under the Supreme Court authority, that  
14 usually takes six to eight months of discovery and very, very  
15 active expert testimony in order to have a 23(b)(3) class. And  
16 so that would have put this process out, obviously, eight to  
17 twelve months potentially. So they didn't do that.

18           So what did they do? They said, okay, Judge, now we  
19 want to use 23(b)(1)(a) and 23(b)(1)(b) even though there has  
20 never been a class certified for a group that has actually  
21 filed proofs of claim. There has never been a class used when  
22 they've allowed opt-outs to anyone who wants to be an opt-out.  
23 In order words, these provisions have never been used this way,  
24 period, and there's a reason for that. The reason is is that,  
25 again, it's a square peg in a round hole.

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1           Now, Mr. Dubbs dealt with the jurisdictional issue and  
2 I take that he is saying he's willing to dismiss the appeal if  
3 the Court grants it. I do want to make one point, Your Honor,  
4 which is that their appeal of your prior order was based on the  
5 idea that it was a final order. They did not make a  
6 application for --

7           THE COURT: No, I know. That --

8           MR. SLACK: -- an interlocutory.

9           THE COURT: But that doesn't -- then Mr. Slack, that  
10 doesn't make it a final order. I mean, there are cases all  
11 over the place that misidentified something as a final order  
12 when it isn't or the reverse.

13          MR. SLACK: Sure.

14          THE COURT: There are interlocutory orders that are as  
15 final as can be. And the appellate court straightened that out  
16 a lot.

17          MR. SLACK: Yeah, I completely agree with you, Your  
18 Honor. But I just wanted to point out that it was raised as a  
19 final order by -- by PERA.

20          THE COURT: I know. But you raised it in your  
21 opposition as interlocutory, but you didn't file a motion to  
22 dismiss. I --

23          MR. SLACK: We did raise that issue on appeal, Your  
24 Honor. You are correct.

25          THE COURT: I know. But you didn't move to dismiss,

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1 so.

2 MR. SLACK: No.

3 THE COURT: And that's okay. I'm glad you didn't.  
4 But the point is that it would seem to me that you would have  
5 made your motion to dismiss on the ground that it's moot, but  
6 it doesn't matter. Mr. Dubbs made the representation and he's  
7 an officer of the court and I believe him. Unless the district  
8 judge issues a ruling tomorrow or the next day, if I make a  
9 ruling here that grants the 7023 motion here, Mr. Dubbs said  
10 he'll withdraw that appeal. So I take him at his word.

11 And if I go the other way, I'll leave it to you to  
12 figure out what to do about the appeal.

13 MR. SLACK: Right. Your Honor, so let me turn to the  
14 Rule 23(b)(1)(a) first. This provision, and as you see in our  
15 slides up there, is not available for a claim for damages which  
16 is plainly what is sought here despite PERA's tortured attempt  
17 to now say the relief sought is equitable. And indeed, after  
18 making no mention in its motion of seeking any purported  
19 equitable relief on claims, PERA changed its arguments on reply  
20 and now, apparently, recognizes that 23(b)(1)(a) cannot be used  
21 for damages and argues in its reply that it's seeking equitable  
22 relief, not damages. And this argument is beyond absurd. The  
23 PERA complaint in the securities litigation, which they based  
24 their proof of claim on, seeks damages. The problem with  
25 that --

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1           THE COURT: You have to concede one thing, don't you?  
2 Because we've already discussed this is probably the first case  
3 of a solvent estate where we have to merge the 7023 concepts  
4 with a claims process and then complicate it further by 5-10B  
5 (sic). So 5-10b doesn't give money to the winners in the  
6 equity class. It gives them something other than money. Now,  
7 you can say that stock is not an equitable remedy, and I'll  
8 agree with you it might be -- isn't traditionally, but it's not  
9 money either.

10           MR. SLACK: Well, actually, Your Honor, I want to take  
11 a little issue with that. Because I don't think that's quite  
12 right.

13           THE COURT: Okay.

14           MR. SLACK: I think, Your Honor, what happened here is  
15 that Your Honor will decide if there is an allowed claim, and  
16 that will be a dollar amount. That will be a damages dollar  
17 amount of an allowed claim.

18           THE COURT: Right.

19           MR. SLACK: And that is all Your Honor has to decide  
20 is a damage amount. Because then what happens under the plan,  
21 Your Honor, is that the plan converts that, and that's the  
22 language that Your Honor used at both the confirmation hearing  
23 and otherwise. The plan then converts that damage amount,  
24 which is an allowed claim, which is the same as any traditional  
25 allowed claim, into a number of shares. It's a conversion.

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1 But --

2 THE COURT: Yeah. But Mr. Slack, I'm sorry to  
3 interrupt you. The plan doesn't do it; the code does it. And  
4 so if Mr. Warden has a twenty million dollar claim in class 10  
5 and ends up getting stock and, God forbid, the companies goes  
6 insolvent and the stock becomes worthless, the dollar claim  
7 becomes worthless.

8 Now, obviously, we're not anticipating that. But you  
9 can't just say -- I mean, I will concede the point that giving  
10 someone stock having a current market value is almost the  
11 equivalent of cash, but it is something other than cash. And  
12 it gives you something that has some risk attached to it that's  
13 different from cash.

14 MR. SLACK: What I would say is, Your Honor, is that  
15 the -- again, what Your Honor is deciding is the amount of an  
16 allowed claim, which is a damage amount --

17 THE COURT: Yeah.

18 MR. SLACK: -- under the securities laws. In other  
19 words, there's no question at the end of the day, if you were  
20 to take PERA's claim and you were to litigate just PERA's  
21 claim, what you would do is you would apply the damage  
22 provisions in the securities laws.

23 THE COURT: Yeah, I know.

24 MR. SLACK: And you would come out with an allowed  
25 claim. And the plan -- as Your Honor said and you're

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1 absolutely right -- would then convert that allowed claim, that  
2 damage number, into a number of shares. So no question about  
3 that.

4 But there is absolutely no question, Your Honor, that  
5 what's going to happen here is that this is all about damages  
6 and coming to an allowed claim under traditional bankruptcy  
7 laws using damage numbers. And --

8 THE COURT: Okay. I understand your point. And your  
9 point is that's why you think that 23(b)(1)(a) is simply not an  
10 option and PERA's attempt to characterize it as equitable is  
11 just not persuasive.

12 MR. SLACK: That is correct, Your Honor. What I would  
13 say, Your Honor, is that when you look at -- when you look at  
14 the treatise that they cite, which is Newburg, there is no  
15 reported cases of securities cases certified under 23(b)(1)(a)  
16 in this century. And that's because securities claims are for  
17 damages under the securities laws. So it's clear that these  
18 are damage claims.

19 The second point, Your Honor, about 23(b)(1)(a) claims  
20 is that -- and we talked a little bit about this but it's  
21 really important here -- the entire idea of a class under  
22 23(b)(1)(a) -- and if you could put up the 23(b)(1)(a)  
23 language, please, back a couple of slides -- the key here is it  
24 doesn't talk about incompatible outcomes. It's really  
25 important what this goes to. It's incompatible standards of

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1 conduct for the party opposing the class. And that's why that  
2 language is traditional equitable. It's used in equitable  
3 situations where the issue is the conduct of the party opposing  
4 the class. It doesn't speak to -- and if you look at the  
5 Zinser case -- it doesn't speak to different outcomes for  
6 damages, right. The Zinser case, which is the 9th Circuit,  
7 said specifically that certification under 23(b)(1)(a),  
8 "Requires more than a risk that separate judgment would oblige  
9 the opposing party to pay damages to some class members, but  
10 not others or to pay them different amounts".

11 The point being that this is not about damages and not  
12 about -- has nothing to do with whether people could get  
13 different amount of damages. In fact, the 9th Circuit has said  
14 that this rule cannot be used that way. So with respect to the  
15 opt-out, of course the whole idea -- because you're talking  
16 about incompatible standards of conduct -- the idea is is that  
17 this is a mandatory class. What that means is is that you  
18 typically shouldn't have opt-outs. And again, the Newburg  
19 treatise, which is cited repeatedly by Mr. Dubbs, makes it very  
20 clear. And this is a quote from Newburg: "If an individual  
21 could opt out of a Rule 23(b)(1) case, that would destroy the  
22 entire purpose of aggregation". And here -- and here's the  
23 point. There's not a single case -- not a single case cited by  
24 Mr. Dubbs where anyone has allowed general opt-outs to these.  
25 There's only one case, and it's under 23(b)(1)(b), where



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1 there's even a single opt-out in that case, which is the county  
2 case, which is both cited by Mr. Dubbs in his papers. In the  
3 County of Suffolk case, which we have here, there was one  
4 claimant and they allowed a single claimant who had its own  
5 issues to opt out. And what did the court say about  
6 recognizing the policy that a district court usually should not  
7 allow a 23(b)(1)(b) class member to opt out. There is simply  
8 no authority to allow opt-outs, and zero authority to allow  
9 everybody to opt out, because the whole purpose of these  
10 provisions are to not have opt-outs and to have consistent  
11 standards of conduct for the defendant. It has nothing to do  
12 with how much is paid.

13 So Your Honor, I'd like to turn to 23(b)(1)(b), which  
14 is what you would think of as the limited fund provision. And  
15 again, this is a classic square peg in a round hole because  
16 this is not a limited fund case. Rather, the plan provides  
17 that all claims are allowed to receive a specified  
18 distribution. As Your Honor knows, there are cases where  
19 there's a pot plan, right? You have a certain amount of money  
20 and the treatment provides for a rateable distribution of a  
21 specified fund. This is not the case. In fact, if it were  
22 treated as a limited fund, it would be in breach of the -- in  
23 breach of the plan. And that's because the plan here  
24 specifically provides that all claims get a specified  
25 distribution.

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1           So here, if the Court were to accept the limited fund  
2 idea, it would actually be in violation of the plan. And in  
3 that instance, you would have a situation where the plan  
4 wouldn't have and shouldn't have been feasible. But PERA  
5 didn't raise that argument, and its attempt to recharacterize  
6 plan treatment as a limited fund has to be rejected.

7           Your Honor, the other thing is that if you look at the  
8 amount of stock which the company has, again, there is enough  
9 to satisfy any claim in order of many multiples of what could  
10 even possibly be conceivable here. In their papers -- in their  
11 opening papers, PERA suggested there were only 600 million  
12 shares available. We provided a declaration from the transfer  
13 agent that there's 1.5 billion shares. When you run that  
14 through the formula, it's enough for as much as a hundred  
15 billion dollars in damages here. And so there just simply is  
16 not a limited fund as a matter of fact. So the limited fund  
17 idea here, really, there's no response to whatsoever.

18           And in terms of opt-outs, I just made the point. And  
19 the point I made on opt-outs, if you, in fact, have a limited  
20 fund, is the same under 23(b)(1)(b) as it is under 23(b)(1)(a).  
21 And again, I cited the Newburg case. The Newburg case said  
22 that an opt-out of any 23(b)(1) case, which includes (a) and  
23 (b), would destroy the entire purpose of aggregation. And  
24 again, not a single case -- not a single case in the history of  
25 this where they have allowed anybody to go and opt out.

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1           Your Honor, there's sort of that old adage that I'm  
2       sure you've heard a thousand times. That when the law's not on  
3       your side, argue the facts. When the facts aren't on your  
4       side, argue the law. Well, PERA has a new corollary to that.  
5       And that adage is when neither the facts or the law are on your  
6       side, hire a legal expert to create new law, tell the court  
7       what it should be. And that's what happened here.

8           And it's telling, Your Honor, because they should have  
9       just filed a brief. If the law was on their side, they should  
10      have filed a brief. Instead, what they did, was they went out  
11      where there was absolutely no support under the law and asked a  
12      professor to try to tell the Court what the law is, and we  
13      think that's pretty telling as to whether or not the law here  
14      is actually on the side of being able to certify a class here.

15           THE COURT: Okay. You're just about -- you're just  
16      about up.

17           MR. SLACK: Okay. Let me say, Your Honor, I started  
18      talking about conflicts, and I want to make sure we talk about  
19      a very particular conflict, and I'll spend two minutes on that  
20      because I think it's important, Your Honor. And that is that  
21      if you look at, Your Honor, what's going on with the insurance  
22      and PERA's position on insurance, PERA's taken the position in  
23      its appeal papers and otherwise, that the debtors aren't  
24      allowed to use insurance to pay for claims in the bankruptcy.

25           Now that's a position that makes a lot of sense if

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1 you're PERA because you're trying to preserve the insurance for  
2 the class action, but that makes absolutely no sense for any  
3 claimant in the bankruptcy. There is absolutely no reason why  
4 a claimant in the bankruptcy wouldn't want funds immediately in  
5 cash. And the idea that PERA is taking a position that we  
6 completely disagree with and, Your Honor, may remember this  
7 from the hearing that we had in confirmation, the judge made it  
8 very -- you made it very clear that people could get cash, and  
9 what they didn't get in cash, they would get in stock. And so  
10 this is going to be, if PERA presses it, a litigated issue.  
11 And PERA has a conflict of interest because its interests with  
12 respect to that insurance as lead plaintiff in one class is  
13 directly opposite to what would be the interest of a claimant  
14 in the bankruptcy because any claimant in the bankruptcy who  
15 has an equity claim would want that. And that is the paradigm,  
16 the epitome of a potential conflict.

17 The other thing, Your Honor, is that PERA's trying to  
18 represent two classes at the same time. And what I could tell  
19 you is that there are situations where PERA may very well have  
20 conflicting interests in both that case and this case, we're  
21 trying to represent debt and equity in the same case. Now we  
22 lay these out in our papers. And the point, Your Honor, is  
23 courts -- and we cite the cases in our papers, courts have a  
24 heightened sense of conflicts when it comes to counsel. And  
25 we've cited a couple of cases that said the Court not only

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1 should avoid conflicts, but the appearance of conflicts. There  
2 are both actual conflicts here and appearances of conflicts  
3 that absolutely prevent PERA from being class counsel for two  
4 separate classes. And there's not a single case that they've  
5 cited where a class counsel on one case has been permitted in  
6 this circumstance to represent another case.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. SLACK: Your Honor --

9 THE COURT: I'm going to cut you off.

10 MR. SLACK: Okay.

11 THE COURT: That will be one -- do you want the two  
12 weeks to file a declaration of an expert or not?

13 MR. SLACK: Your Honor, if my choice is getting an  
14 expert to tell you what the law is, I don't want to do that. I  
15 would respond if you gave us the opportunity, but I don't have  
16 any interest in having an expert --

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. SLACK: -- to tell you what the law is.

19 THE COURT: I got it. Okay. Thank you.

20 MR. KAROTKIN: Your Honor? Your Honor, could I have  
21 two minutes, please?

22 THE COURT: No. No. I've got -- I'm overloaded, so  
23 I'm sorry Mr. Karotkin, your partner has done a good job.

24 MR. KAROTKIN: How about one minute?

25 THE COURT: How about thirty seconds?

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1 MR. KAROTKIN: How about thirty seconds. Okay. First  
2 of all, you raised the concern in one of your questions about  
3 people understanding the procedures. What we would propose,  
4 Your Honor, is submitting to the Court on notice almost like a  
5 mini-disclosure statement in connection with the offer and  
6 acceptance procedures, as well as the mediation. People can  
7 look at it. People can comment on it. So it will be very  
8 certain that people who aren't subject to our process will  
9 clearly understand what's going on.

10 I'd like to also -- with respect to Ms. Feldsher's  
11 concerns with foot faults, number one, I'm sorry that she felt  
12 an imposition that her client had to provide information like  
13 all other clients who support the claim, but two responses. If  
14 you read the procedures, there are three or four opportunities  
15 to avoid a foot fault. And more importantly, there is no  
16 automatic disallowance of a claim, no automatic disallowance.  
17 It's all up to you, Your Honor, at the end of the day. People  
18 can have multiple chances, and do have multiple chances to  
19 supply the information. And as we said, we will go through the  
20 claims to make sure that to the extent someone has provided  
21 information, we will not, ask Ms. Feldsher or her clients to  
22 duplicate that to avoid any burden.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Let me go back and say this then  
24 once again. I think an automatic disallowance would probably  
25 be in violation of the Code and the Supreme Court teaching in

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1 Pacific Gas & Electric Co. v. Travelers, and so I can't ignore  
2 that decision, and I am glad you clarified it. As I told you,  
3 I haven't worked my way through the proposed order and  
4 procedures.

5 MR. KAROTKIN: But Your Honor --

6 THE COURT: But to go back to --

7 MR. KAROTKIN: -- there are least three or four  
8 opportunities --

9 THE COURT: No, I got it.

10 MR. KAROTKIN: -- for them to --

11 THE COURT: Mr. Karotkin, back to your first point.

12 You're proposing that you would draft and circulate a form of a  
13 disclosure document that would accompany, what, the offers and  
14 acceptance process?

15 MR. KAROTKIN: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. KAROTKIN: And also describe how that works, as  
18 well as if it didn't work, any subsequent mediation.

19 THE COURT: Okay. I even -- I gave you a heads-up  
20 about that in my order about we don't have a disclosure  
21 statement now, and I think you're inviting me to take you upon  
22 that. Okay, I got it.

23 MR. KAROTKIN: Yeah, I remember you yelled at me about  
24 my first disclosure statement.

25 THE COURT: You used your thirty seconds effectively.

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1 MR. KAROTKIN: Okay.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Dubbs, you're the closer, for  
3 fifteen minutes, if you want.

4 MR. DUBBS: Thank you, Your Honor. I will try to be  
5 quick.

6 THE COURT: It's up to you. Don't feel pressured.

7 MR. DUBBS: Well, the -- Mr. Karotkin's comment is of  
8 a number where they are trying to clean up and make less  
9 onerous what was designed, and I under -- or that were designed  
10 to deter and make relatively difficult, the submission of claim  
11 forms because, granted, on the securities side you have to show  
12 when the trading was, but you don't have to have gone through  
13 all the amount of rigmarole that they ask for, number one.

14 Number two, in order to -- if the issue -- if the goal  
15 is to have an informed electorate, to borrow a phrase or to  
16 extrapolate Your Honor's metaphor slightly, you can't do it  
17 solely by having PG&E, who has an axe to grind, give them a  
18 disclosure statement. These people need a lawyer, and some of  
19 them have lawyers, if they want to have a lawyer, they can opt-  
20 out but they need a lawyer to level the playing field.

21 Now what Mr. Slack knows about the conflicts and  
22 potential conflicts is, I don't want to go there. There are no  
23 potential conflicts. Conflicts have to be actual conflicts in  
24 the class action arena under Rule 23, number one.

25 Number two, if it's not clear by now, I don't know



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1 what it is, we are fighting as hard as we can go get all of the  
2 claimants as much money as possible, both in the district court  
3 and here. That is not a conflict.

4 THE COURT: Well, but --

5 MR. DUBBS: That is --

6 THE COURT: -- Mr. Dubbs, do you take the position  
7 that the debtor, not the defendants in the district court, but  
8 our corporate debtor, can't pay the claimants in this class  
9 with insurance money?

10 MR. DUBBS: It raises a very tricky insurance issue.  
11 And under our position, the way the clause reads, there's a  
12 priority of payments clause which has to be litigated, which  
13 raises a problem that doesn't let them do it now. Now, if  
14 that's litigated, and they win, sure they can pay cash.

15 THE COURT: But isn't that the --

16 MR. DUBBS: And they could pay --

17 THE COURT: -- but isn't that between the company and  
18 the insurer?

19 MR. DUBBS: Yeah.

20 THE COURT: If Mr. Slack calls --

21 MR. DUBBS: Yeah.

22 THE COURT: -- up and he says, here, claimant X is  
23 entitled to 100,000, cut him a check, and the insurance company  
24 says we don't have to, that solves that problem, doesn't it?

25 MR. DUBBS: It does solve that problem, and if we

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1 write a letter to the insurance company saying you can't do  
2 this under the policy, well, then everybody is on notice as to  
3 what their positions are. So that's --

4 THE COURT: Well, but if the --

5 MR. DUBBS: -- fine.

6 THE COURT: -- claimant's been promised 100,000  
7 dollars and the insurer won't pay, I assume that means the  
8 company is going to have to pay it --

9 MR. DUBBS: Well --

10 THE COURT: -- and but why would I get involved in the  
11 dispute between the company and the insurance company as to who  
12 has to pay the claimant?

13 MR. DUBBS: You won't be because if these people are  
14 half as sophisticated as they come across, they're going to say  
15 we're going to try to get you cash, but we may have to pay you  
16 in shares because there's some uncertainty on this issue.

17 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Dubbs --

18 MR. DUBBS: Or --

19 THE COURT: -- you're --

20 MR. DUBBS: -- if they sign a piece of paying saying  
21 we're paying you a hundred bucks cash, whatever come -- we're  
22 paying you a hundred bucks in cash for receipt or for a  
23 release, and there's a problem with the insurance company, then  
24 they've got to take it out of their coffers, yes.

25 THE COURT: Well, but you don't care if they take it

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1 out of their coffers. If the --

2 MR. DUBBS: Well, I do care if they take it out of  
3 their coffers because the insurance companies take the view  
4 that there's one pot, and once that pot is exhausted, it can't  
5 be used to indemnify or pay for the officers and directors.

6 THE COURT: Okay, but my --

7 MR. DUBBS: So to --

8 THE COURT: -- point is that under the offer, and  
9 acceptance alternative, or the mediation alternative, if I go  
10 with the company's proposal, the claimant who is given an offer  
11 is given an offer presumably in cash. And if the claimant says  
12 okay, give me the cash, then the company better deliver the  
13 cash, and how they deliver the cash is none of my business or  
14 the claimant's business, so --

15 MR. DUBBS: We would agree with that limited  
16 observation.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. DUBBS: It's not your problem.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. DUBBS: It may be a big problem, but it is not  
21 your problem.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. DUBBS: We covered the opt-outs. Please look at  
24 the Drexel case, which was a limited fund case. On the  
25 limited fund, the limited fund issue is, at this point, an

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1 issue of burden shifting, and burden of persuasion. We put  
2 forward a prima facie case that there was a limited fund. They  
3 said no, and they presented an expert who came up with some  
4 hypotheticals.

5 What we thought was going to happen, and indeed what  
6 should've happened is their CFO, the very articulate gentleman  
7 who testified at the hearing, I forget his name, I apologize to  
8 him, he could've said what was in the S-3, which is in one of  
9 our footnotes, that says we have all these other obligations.  
10 We have obligations to the fire people, we have other  
11 obligations. We're not telling you what all the other  
12 obligations are. So as the record stands right now, we don't  
13 know whether there's a limited fund. All we know is we said  
14 there's not a limited fund. They say we don't agree with your  
15 arithmetic, and our expert does this arithmetic, and says  
16 there's a gazillion dollars. There's sit down, and shut up.  
17 So that's that.

18 As to the other issues, the bulk claim issue does --  
19 is sort of a cloud over this whole thing because neither side  
20 can really figure out its liability without it. Some of these  
21 other issues, I think are more, you could go either -- you  
22 could argue them either way, but that one is the tough one.  
23 And the gentleman who testified, if you have a billion dollars  
24 in bulk claims, and the position of PG&E is that's one claim,  
25 or no claim, that's throwing a billion dollars of claims out of

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1 the window, and I would respectfully submit that is something  
2 that does require at least judicial scrutiny before --

3 THE COURT: Well, but Mr. Dubbs, I think again in what  
4 I'll call my tentative -- it really wasn't a tentative, but the  
5 order that I issued, I think I even -- let me just look and see  
6 what I said, I believe I even said, but not the bulk claims. I  
7 said why should the Court permit the omnibus objection  
8 procedures to apply at all to failure to comply, bulks claims  
9 or truth in the market?

10 And so if I say that if I go with the ADR procedure,  
11 it's not going to apply to the bulk claims. It seems to me I  
12 can invite the company to file an objection to the claim filed  
13 on -- by a bulk claimant, and therefore, you will have judicial  
14 determination. You will have a court determination, can that  
15 person file a bulk claim or not. And it could be litigated to  
16 the Ninth Circuit, if necessary, but the point is it could be  
17 teed up. And if I excluded it from the ADR procedure, then I  
18 don't think there's any risk that you're worried about there.

19 MR. DUBBS: Well, I hope that's the case.

20 THE COURT: Well, that's what I -- I mean, maybe I was  
21 too quick in my summary --

22 MR. DUBBS: It --

23 THE COURT: -- but that's what I meant in paragraph 2  
24 of my order, and I took bulk claim, truth in the market, and  
25 failure to comply, and Mr. Karotkin has conceded the point on

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1 the failure to comply. In other words, and this comes back to  
2 the objection by counsel, nobody is going to have their claim  
3 tossed out because they haven't complied with a questionnaire  
4 that the company has sent them. The Supreme Court has said how  
5 you get rid of claims, it's called objection to claim.

6 MR. DUBBS: Well, perhaps I was --

7 THE COURT: There's a lot better than the other  
8 alternative, so that for example, for the fire victims in the  
9 fire aspect of this case, those claims will be determined under  
10 the procedures to the fire trust, not through the Court with  
11 very minor exceptions.

12 MR. DUBBS: I was a little confused because the sort  
13 of reading it in the spirit of, I guess it's ejusdem generis,  
14 bulk claims and truth in the market, are sort of apples and  
15 oranges, and --

16 THE COURT: I know. I know that, and it was just a  
17 list, and a persimmon is the failure to comply with procedure.  
18 I had three things in the fruit salad here, to say I wasn't  
19 really happy to have it happen that way.

20 I mean, let me give it back to you. Am I not correct,  
21 the bulk claim issue is what do you do with a claim filed by  
22 one entity on behalf of multiple claimants?

23 MR. DUBBS: That's how I understand the issue.

24 THE COURT: Right, and that's how I understand it.

25 And so if somebody says here is a claim for 200 investments or

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1 investors, there might be an objection to say that's not -- you  
2 don't have the right to assert that claim, and that's why I  
3 might have to decide that, or some court will have to decide  
4 it. But anyway, let's go ahead and let you finish up.

5 MR. DUBBS: Yes.

6 THE COURT: You're just about done.

7 MR. DUBBS: Well --

8 THE COURT: Long morning.

9 MR. DUBBS: That's fine, and that's why we sort of  
10 created the off-rank -- offramp for that individual problem.  
11 The truth in the market as our colloquy before indicated, that  
12 is more the gist of what a mediator would put into the mix in  
13 determining what the value of these nine drops was.

14 THE COURT: Well, I may have over-understood something  
15 that Mr. Slack said in his reply because maybe he said it, and  
16 I shouldn't have gone there, and that he said we aren't dealing  
17 with the truth in the market under the omnibus procedure. And  
18 so I think that was consistent. And so when I just put it in  
19 there another way saying we're not going to deal with it under  
20 this procedure. So anyway.

21 MR. DUBBS: Well, I took it, because I would be  
22 shocked if someone didn't use one of the classic defenses,  
23 which is not a "merits" defense in the sense of did PG&E do bad  
24 conduct, but is a defense to what is going on in the  
25 marketplace and does that mitigate or lower damages. And so I

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1 view that as part and parcel of what a mediator would do in  
2 making the stew of what ends up being those nine numbers.

3 THE COURT: No, but I am agreeing with you I think.  
4 And what if the mediation is unsuccessful, and under your  
5 scheme, the case went to trial? The truth in the market would  
6 be a defense that would be tried on the merits, right?

7 MR. DUBBS: Generally, these cases are bifurcated  
8 between liability and damages but assuming no bifurcation, yes,  
9 that would be part of the evidentiary presentation that the  
10 experts would make.

11 THE COURT: Okay. That was the impression I got too.  
12 That was my -- okay, never mind. I got it.

13 MR. DUBBS: Okay.

14 THE COURT: Final thoughts?

15 MR. DUBBS: My final thought is, is this different  
16 than what they portrayed as doing it the usual way? Yes, but  
17 this is an unusual set of circumstances where you have  
18 substantial amounts of money flowing down to the equity level,  
19 so I am not sure doing it the old way necessarily works. Or at  
20 the very least, should be reexamined particularly in light of  
21 the 7,000 claims because I suspect, I am may be wrong, I will  
22 buy Mr. Slack a drink and talk about how I actually saw Ernie  
23 Banks at Wrigley Field, and they're not going to rid of 7,000  
24 claims doing it this way, I bet. I hope I'm wrong for the sake  
25 of the estate, but it's highly, highly unlikely.



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1 Thank you very much for the time.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Dubbs, I don't want to compare ages,  
3 but I saw Ernie Banks at Wrigley Field, but I also saw him hit  
4 the first homerun at Candlestick Park in San Francisco and he  
5 beat the Giants, and I have been mad at him ever since.

6 Thank you, Mr. Slack, and Mr. Dubbs, and --

7 MR. SLACK: Your Honor, if I could make two points  
8 very quickly, I would appreciate it.

9 THE COURT: Only if it's baseball related.

10 MR. SLACK: No, they're not, but I will try to think  
11 of a baseball-related comment.

12 Two comments. And I think it was my fault, I think  
13 there's a misperception, Your Honor, of the insurance issue  
14 because it's not an issue between the debtors and the insurers.  
15 The issue is that the -- that PERA is taking a position that  
16 the plan -- that the plan -- prevents the debtors from using  
17 insurance money to pay these claims, and so it's not an issue  
18 that's between the insurers and the debtors. It's an issue  
19 that PARA is the only one raising which is that the plan  
20 prevents it. And our position, Your Honor, is that if you are  
21 a claimant who has a securities claim, you are going to be able  
22 to want us to use insurance and cash in order to pay that.

23 And what Mr. Dubbs is taking a position, because of  
24 his unique position in the district court case, is that somehow  
25 we can't use insurance money or cash to pay those claims. So

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1 that is a direct conflict, it's not a hypothetical conflict,  
2 they've actually taken that position on the appeal. And what I  
3 would tell you, Your Honor, is it's not hypothetical. So  
4 that's point number one.

5 Point number two, Your Honor, is and I just want to  
6 make sure that it doesn't going unnoticed, what Mr. Dubbs said,  
7 I don't actually think he's right about this, but here's what  
8 he said. He said we don't know if there's a limited fund. If  
9 they don't know, and it's their motion that there's a limited  
10 fund, they lose. But what I will tell you, Your Honor, is that  
11 we put in the transfer agent that said there was a  
12 million-and-a-half available shares. All we did was the math  
13 through the formula. If you do the math through the formula,  
14 that would allow up to 100 billion in damages. You don't --  
15 there's no hypothetical situation, it was just literally math.  
16 And so there is no limited fund here, Your Honor.

17 Those are the two points, and I didn't get a baseball  
18 reference before I finished, but those are my two points.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. DUBBS: Okay, Your Honor, there's one response to  
21 that. We made a prima facie case there was a limited fund.  
22 They did not respond by saying what are the encumbrances on all  
23 the assets. The transfer agent doesn't have knowledge of that.  
24 She's not competent to do that. Yes, she can testify as to how  
25 many shares of stock are floating around, but she can't testify

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1 as to the encumbrance. And as to the conflict, it's totally  
2 illusory.

3 THE COURT: Okay. I got it. You've briefed it  
4 thoroughly. The ball's in my court. That's a -- I guess  
5 that's a basketball metaphor. So thank you, Mr. Dubbs. Thank  
6 you, Mr. Slack. Thank you, Ms. Parada and Ms. Thomas. The  
7 matter stands submitted, and I am going to conclude the  
8 hearing.

9 MR. SLACK: Thank you for your time, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Thank you for your time, too.

11 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded)  
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## C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Linda Ferrara, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

*Linda Ferrara*

---

/s/ LINDA FERRARA, CET-656

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Phoenix, AZ 85020

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